

Gc
976.401
M76h

M. D

Gc
976.
M76h
1149160

GENEALOGY COLLECTION

✓

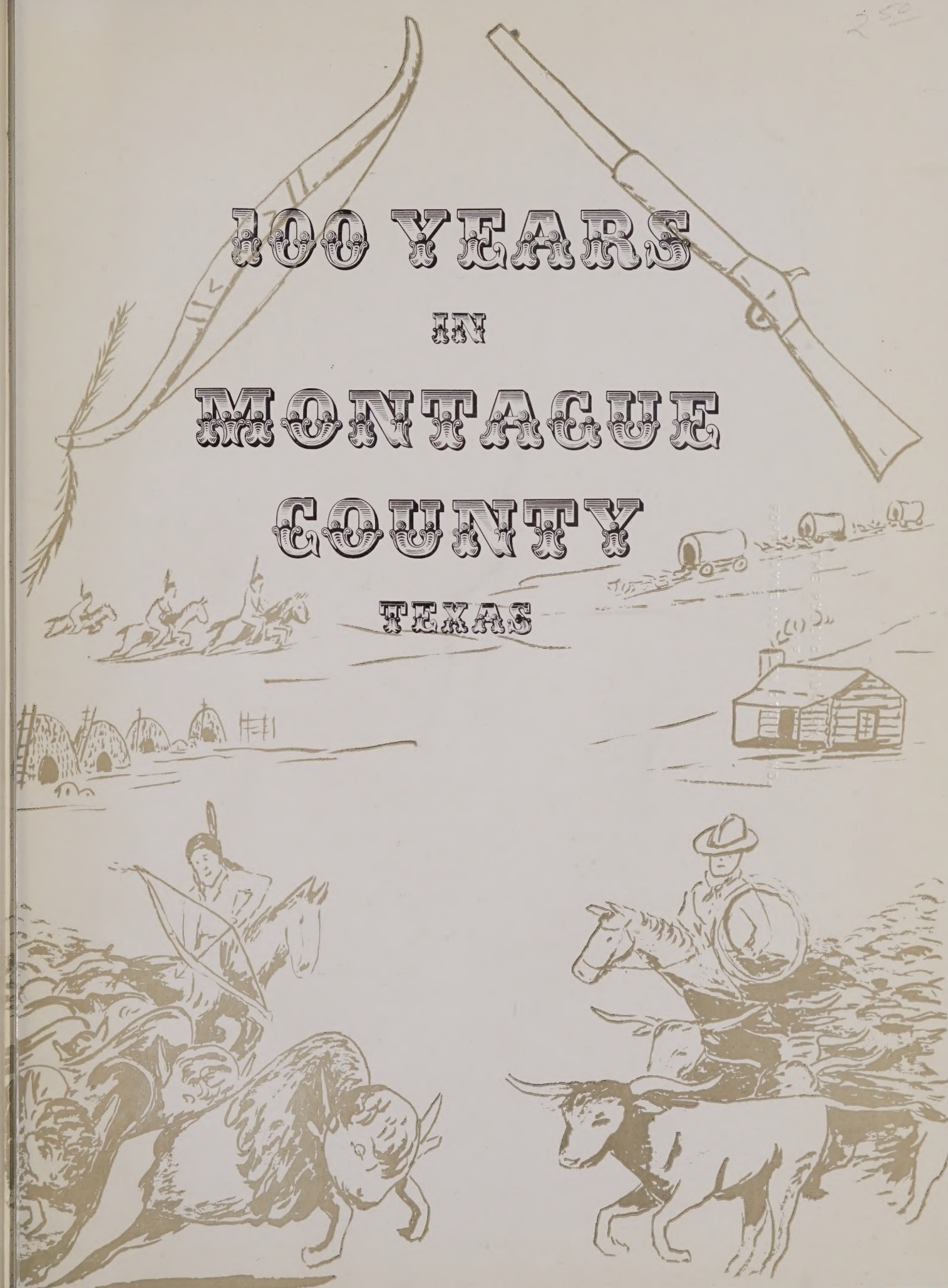
ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 02290 3964

250

100 YEARS
IN
MONTAGUE
COUNTY
TEXAS





Nocona Girls Band was organized in 1903, and was the first girls band in North Texas.

Members of the band are: I.r. Pearl Cone, Anne Benton, Laura Womack, Jennie Lee Cochran. Annie Thurston, Eula Moore, Grace Wilson, Sally McIntire, Obie Fatheree. Mattie McIntire, Mabell March, Hattie Harper, Lena Matlock, Alma Russell, Lula Fatheree, Houghty Utt, Eva Matlock.

The Band was organized by Postmaster W. M. Merritt, on May 4, 1903. Mr. Goben of Gainesville was employed to give the girls instruction. Back in 1903 not many girls could play musical instruments.

The girls made trips all over the area, traveling by rail. They made a trip to Fort Worth and appeared at the Southwestern Fat Stock Show and Exposition, when it was being staged in the old north side coliseum. They helped celebrate the founding of Byers, Texas, they appeared at the historical Fleetwood barbecue and picnic. The trip was made by wagons, and a caravan of buggies, and men on horseback accompanied the girls to Oklahoma for the celebration. They also played at Leonard, Texas, Wynnewood, Oklahoma and other towns in Texas and Oklahoma. They were chaperoned on all their trips by Mesdames C. E. Quillen, R. B. Clark, and J. H. Cone.

When the World's Fair was being organized in St. Louis, this famous band was extended an invitation to appear at the fair. The young ladies were looking forward to the long pullman trip and the nice pay checks, but their mothers felt that it was too far from home, so the invitation was declined.

They played such march music as Dixie, Joe Bailey, Yankee Doodle and others. The girls were attending Nocona high school and after they graduated the band broke up.

PEOPLES NATIONAL BANK, Nocona, Texas

Capital Stock, Surplus, Undivided Profits and Reserves over \$240,000.00



**SINCE 1921 PROVIDING BETTER BANKING SERVICE
FOR NOCONA AND MONTAGUE COUNTY**

S. D. Howard, President
Wm. A. Sell, Cashier
Kate Davis, Asst. Cashier

Joe L. Janeway, Vice President
Ruth Davis, Asst. Cashier
Raymond B. Henley, Asst. Cashier

DIRECTORS

James V. Daugherty
Wm. A. Sell

S. D. Howard
G. M. Utt

Joe L. Janeway
Gould Whaley

100 YEARS

IN

MONTAGUE

COUNTY

TEXAS

Henderson

EDITED BY



Lieutenant Colonel Jeff S. Henderson, U. S. Army Reserve, is son of a newspaper editor and studied journalism in college. Was editor of his college newspaper, and worked on several large daily newspapers, before buying his own newspaper at Eudora, Ark. For seven years was regional salesmanager for an advertising company.

Member of the Army Reserve since 1924, he spent six years on active duty in World War II, was overseas three years, as a member of General Douglas MacArthur's staff. Went to Nocona in 1951 as manager of Chamber of Commerce. Is married and has two sons and a daughter.

COVER BY

Mrs. Mabel Goodwin was born in Newport, attended school in Nocona, and entered business in Bowie. Mrs. Goodwin is a member of the Bowie Art League. Her favorite subjects are historical scenes in Montague county, and she has won a number of awards. Each year she enters exhibits in the Side-walk Art Show at Bowie. Mrs. Goodwin is married and has one daughter.



PRINTED BY

IPTA PRINTERS, SAINT JO, TEXAS

MATERIAL IN THIS BOOK CANNOT BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE EDITOR

Amon Carter in his home in February 1952, serving his guests chicken and bread, "Bowie Style" like he used to sell passengers on the Fort Worth and Denver railroad trains in the early days before there were diners on the trains and they would stop in Bowie 20 minutes for lunch.



Cotton Carnival parade in Bowie in 1899. This was an annual affair in the fall of the year.

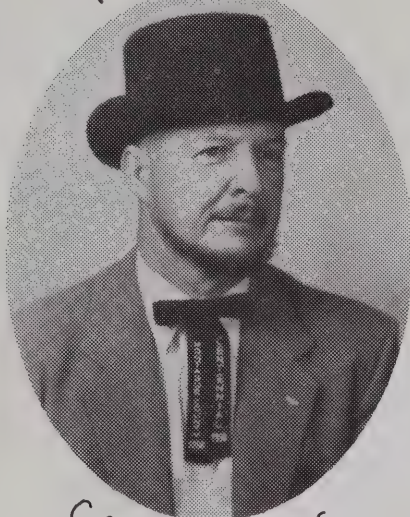
FOR ALL THE OFFICIAL COUNTY NEWS

Read

The Bowie News

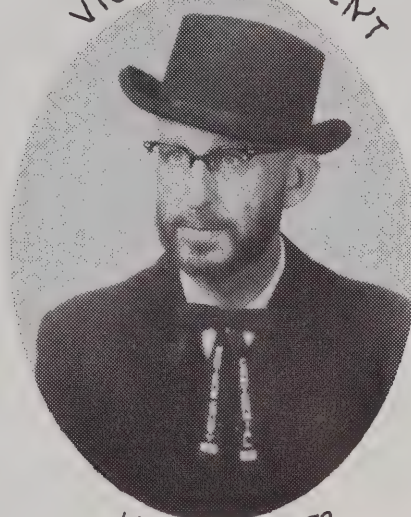
BOWIE, TEXAS

PRESIDENT



CASEY JONES

VICE PRESIDENT

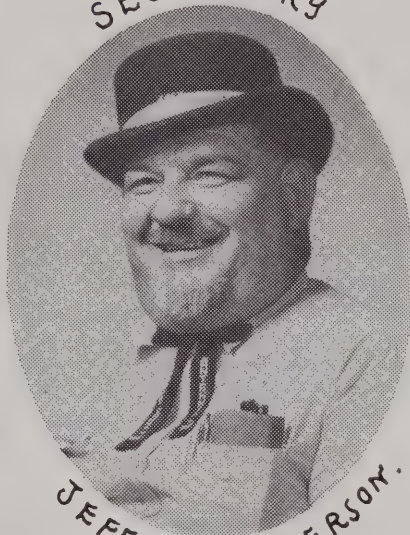


H.D. FIELD JR.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MONTAGUE COUNTY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

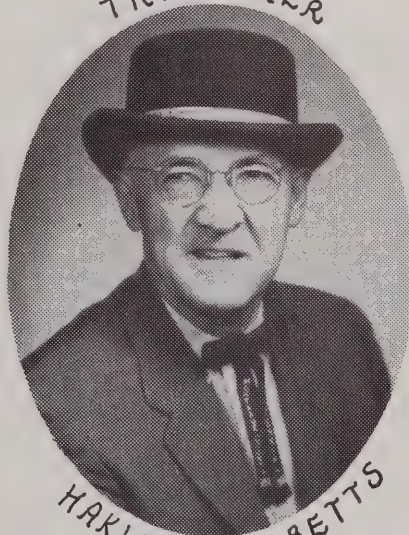
SECRETARY



JEFF S. HENDERSON.

1149160

TREASURER



HAKLOW TIBBETTS

Montague Book Store \$2.50



Top Picture: Post Office personnel in Nocona in 1905. l.r. L. C. Stouder, route 1; Z. W. Shackelford, route 2; Mr. Davis; Miss Maggie Weiss, route 3; John McCall; W. N. Merrit, Postmaster; Ray Beal, route 4; Ford Fry, route 5.

Bottom Picture: l.r.: Roy Weiss, Jr., Jack Crain, Miss Enid Justin, President, Nocona Boot Co., Inc. This picture was made in 1940 while Weiss and Jack Crain were attending the University of Texas. Crain was selected All-American halfback while playing football at the University. Weiss became an Air Force officer and was killed in action.

THE NOCONA NEWS

MONTAGUE COUNTY'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

MR. and MRS. ROWLAND R. PETERS, Publishers

NOCONA, TEXAS

Board of Directors of the Central Committee



Left to right: Glenn Wilson, Chairman Montague County Historical survey committee; W. E. Nunneley, Saint Jo; H. D. Field, Jr., Saint Jo; Casey Jones, Forestburg; Harlow Tibbetts, Bowie; Jeff S. Henderson, Nocona; County Judge W. D. Grigsby, Montague; Earnest E. Hayley, Saint Jo; and Mrs. Lillian Minor, Montague.

Others on the board not shown in the picture are: J. C. Gregory, Mrs. JoAllen Spears, Mrs. T. Roy Coffield, Bowie; Hinds Clark, G. W. Humphreys and Rowland R. Peters, Nocona; Mrs. J. E. Rushing, Ringgold; Clyde Johnson and Bonnie Mitchell, Jr., Spanish Fort.

Montague County Centennial Celebration

Montague County's celebration will be a history making event, as it is the first celebration of this type that has ever been attempted. Unlike most celebrations where center of activities is confined to one town, this county's celebration will be held in seven towns, starting on Sunday, July 27, in Ringgold, Monday it will move to Spanish Fort, Tuesday, Saint Jo; Wednesday, Forestburg; Thursday, Bowie; Friday, Nocona, and will close on Saturday at Montague.

To get the organization started, each town was asked to appoint two or more members to the board of directors, of the county centennial committee, and that they be authorized to vote for the town in setting up the organization.

This group decided to elect an executive board composed of a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The board of directors were to meet with the executive committee once a month to work out details for the celebration.

Each of the towns were to organize their own

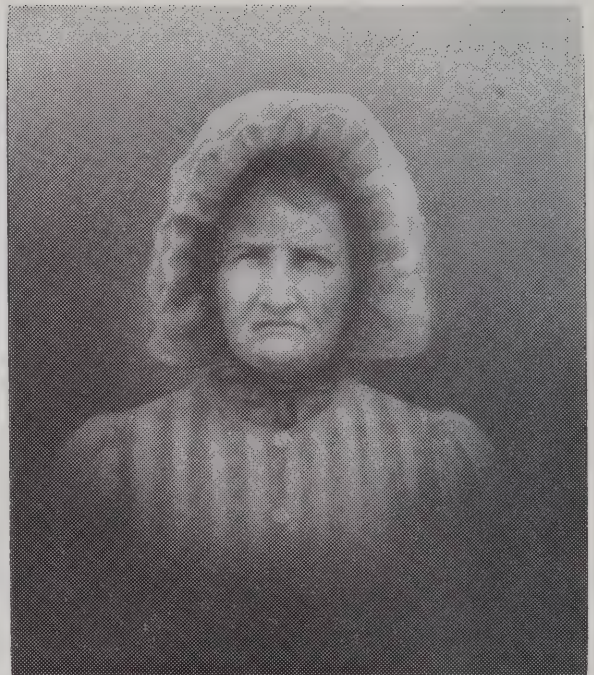
centennial committee, to have charge of the celebration for that town.

Financing the celebration became the first order of business, as many of the firms that furnish supplies for celebrations required money with the order. The executive committee signed a note and borrowed sufficient money to start. It was agreed that they would sell to the towns at cost, plus a small charge to cover breakage and dead stock, and that the towns would repay the central committee as money became available. Profit from sale of merchandise would remain with the town committee.

The central committee also established the over all rules and regulations governing the celebration, and agreed to help with the advertising.

A successful celebration will earn the title of "a celebration on wheels" with the interest manifested, and work done by local committees, it will be the most unusual centennial celebration ever held in the state of Texas.

Mrs. James (Emaline Trent) Harris, a native of Arkansas, came to Texas in 1834 with her mother and grandparents to settle in Lamar county. In 1850 she married Mr. James Harris of Missouri and in 1858 they secured a homestead claim on 160 acres of land just east of Head of Elm (Saint Jo). Following his service with Capt. Hout's cavalry unit during the Civil War he returned to his farm. He was massacred by the Indians near Head of Elm in September 1866. Mrs. Harris raised three of her four sons, Thomas, John and William, on the home place and died there in 1909. Several of her grandchildren and other descendants still reside in the Saint Jo area.



HEAD OF ELM

(Saint Jo)

HISTORIC CAMP SITE

for

- 1849** CAPT. RANDOLPH B. MARCY
on Government Survey Trip
- 1854** CAPT. JOHN POPE
Surveying Proposed Federal R. R.
- 1855** U. S. 2nd CAVALRY
Under Col. Albert Sidney Johnson en
route to establish Texas Frontier Forts.
Reported Settlement Here.
- 1857** COL. JAMES B. LEACH
Heading "Corn Train" to Ft. Belknap
- 1860** U. S. POST OFFICE OPENED
John W. Womble, Postmaster
- 1867-87** GREAT CATTLE TRAILS
Drivers Camped and Watered
- 1873** SAINT JO FOUNDED on site by I. H.
Boggess and J. A. Howell.

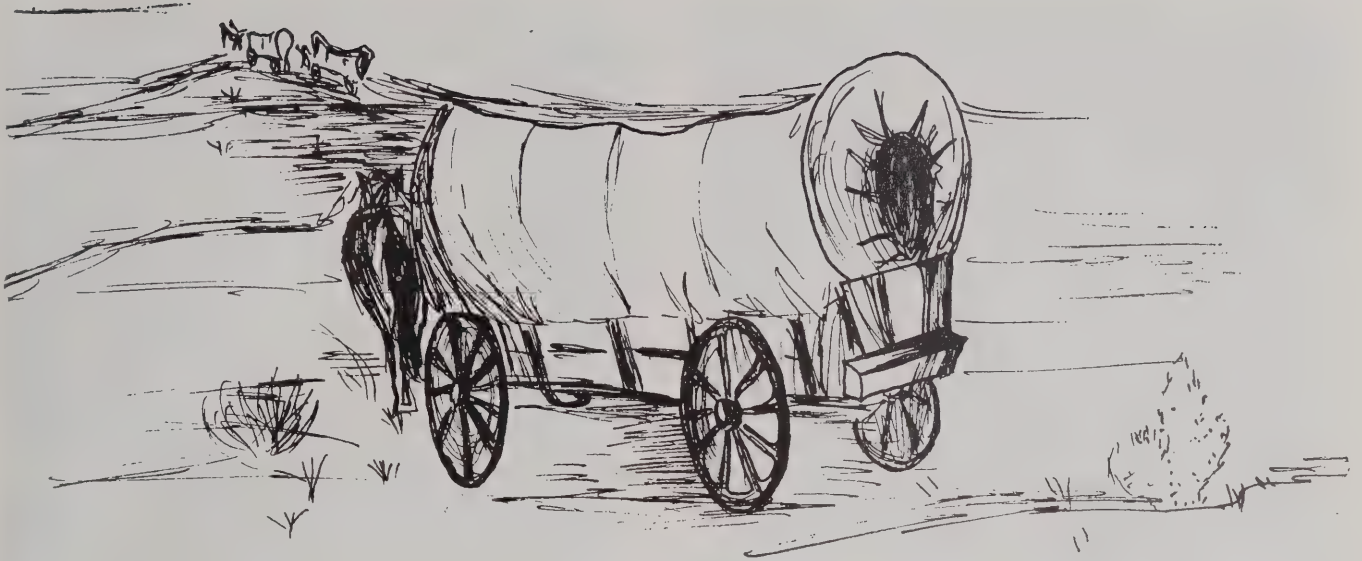
The National Archives in Washington, D.C., support historians in their claims that Saint Jo is the oldest continuous settlement in Montague county. Information at left was secured from the official records. The postal department reveals that the first post office was established October 30, 1860, when this settlement was still known as Head of Elm. The name of the post office changed to Saint Jo on August 7, 1873.

THE SAINT JO TRIBUNE

OLDEST NEWSPAPER IN MONTAGUE COUNTY

IPTA *Printers*

SAINT JO, TEXAS



We are the seekers of new lands, we are the pioneers.
We have builded our lonely homes on a thousand gaunt frontiers.
Our fathers have breasted the setting sun for a hundred
hundred years.
We have sweated at leather and creaking wheel in the face of
a savage dare.
Our feet have worn over mountain and plain the pathways
that prepare
The way for roads of wood and steel, and the highways of the air.

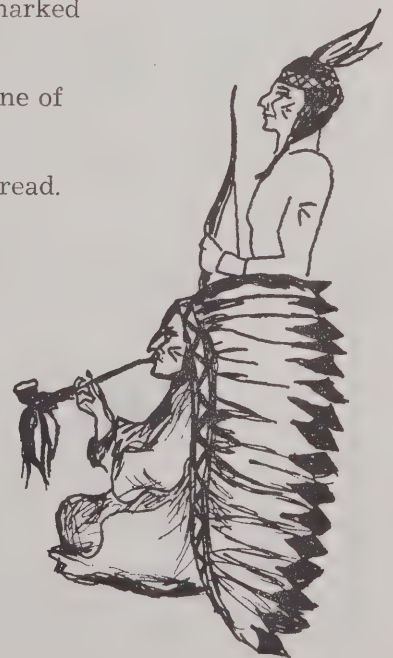
We have dragged our wagons and bullock carts, laden with bed and board
From the states past old Fort Gibson, the Sabine, or the "Choctaw's" Ford.
Daring the dangers of plague and thirst, hunger and
lurking horde.

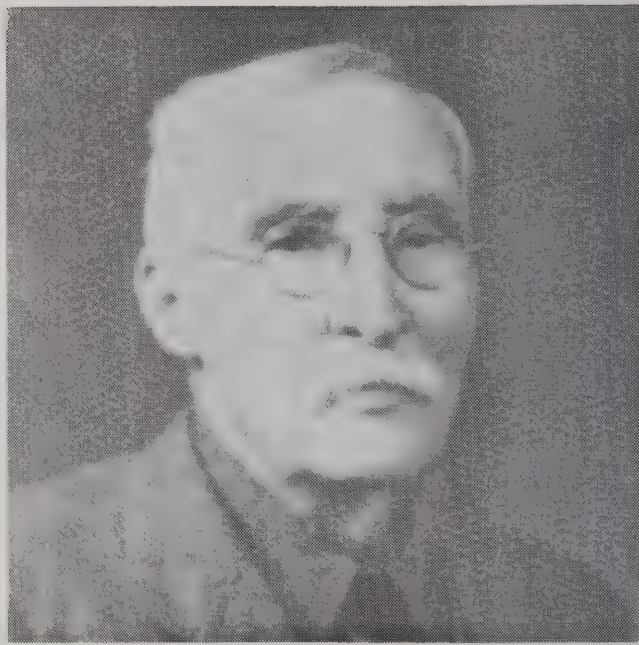
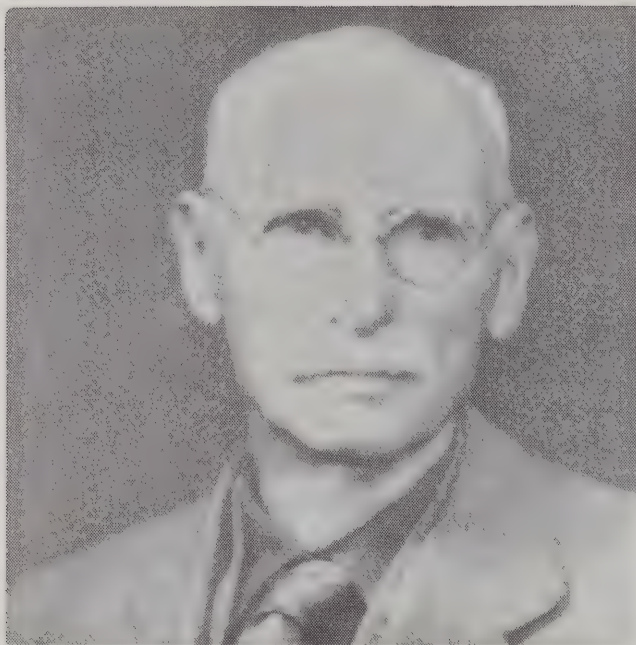
The trails we traced o'er the trackless waste are roads marked
with our dead.

But our faces are set toward the golden west, and our line of
march is ahead.

The marching song of a mighty race is the echo of our tread.

H. V. MORROW





Top Picture: Walter E. and William L. Scott were in business in Saint Jo for 37 years. W. E. first started to work for his brother-in-law, J. D. Bellah in 1881. In 1890 he and his brother started in the hardware business and Undertaking. On October 6, 1927, W. E. Scott, Jr., and W. L. Scott II bought out their father and uncle and have been partners for 32 years, giving the family a business record of 69 years of Montague county's 100.

Bottom Picture: Members of the Saint Jo Presbyterian church in 1919.

SCOTT BROS.

ESTABLISHED 1890

W. L. SCOTT

Nocona

W. E. SCOTT, Jr.

Saint Jo

RUSSELL'S

BOWIE, TEXAS

Nocona Truck & Tractor Co.

FARMALL TRACTORS — IMPLEMENTS
INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS — REFRIGERATION

Nocona, Texas

Montague County Named For Pioneer Surveyor and Indian Fighter In 1857

Daniel Montague was a son of Richard Montague. He was born at South Hadley, Mass., August 22, 1798. He received a good education at his home and chose the profession of surveyor and civil engineer.

He left Massachusetts about 1820 and located in Louisiana, where he was a successful surveyor for about fifteen years. Hearing of the fall of the Alamo and the massacre at Goliad, he left his family in Louisiana and hastened into Texas, but finding upon his arrival that San Jacinto had been won and Santa Anna a prisoner, he returned to Louisiana and settled up his business affairs.

In the fall of 1836 he came to Texas with his family and settled at "Old Warren" on Red River in what is now Fannin County. He was appointed the first surveyor of the old Fannin land District.

As the surveyors were the most hated among all the newcomers by the Indians, his scalp became the special object of their ambition. It became necessary for him to organize the settlers against the Indians

and he was engaged much of his time in active Indian warfare. He promptly joined the army in 1846, and commanded a company in the Mexican War.

When not engaged in military service, he was surveying lands, locating land certificates in that vast region, extending from Fannin County out as far as the present county of Haskell, and in this way accumulated a large landed estate. At the close of the Civil War in 1865, like many other prominent Texas citizens, he took up his abode in Mexico, locating in the valley of the Tuxpan River, where he remained eleven years, when learning of the death of his son, Daniel Ross Montague, he returned to Texas, aged and feeble, to spend the remainder of his days with his only daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Twitty.

While on a visit to a friend at Marysville in Cooke County, he was stricken with pneumonia and died December 20, 1876. Throughout his life he was a consistent Christian and active member of the Methodist church.

Schools Grew As Population Increased

Two years after Montague County was organized August 2, 1858, the census of 1860 gave the county a population of only 849 persons. Growth during the next ten years was slow, for in 1870 the population was only 890.

It was the ten years following that big pastures and large ranches were divided into farms. King Cotton was becoming the money crop and by 1880 there were 11,257 people in the county.

The building of railroads across the county in the '80s resulted in increased population by leaps and bounds. During this period the towns of Bowie, Saint Jo and Nocona were incorporated. There were several other good size towns in the county: Red River Station, Burlington (Spanish Fort), Forestburg, Hardy, Montague, Belcherville, Sunset, Bonita, Illinois Bend and others. Census takers tallied 18,863 people in 1890.

During the 1890's things really happened. Towns were growing and each community boasted two or three cotton gins. The county had fifty-four gins in operation. Between Montague and Bowie the town of Tage had a post office. Several towns in the county were larger than Wichita Falls. The fast growing county had a population of 24,800 in 1900. Spanish Fort (Burlington) had four hotels and five doctors.

Records reveal that seventy-one schools were located throughout the county in 1901. They were established in every community where enough pupils were within walking distance to occupy the time of one or more teachers.

These were the schools that year: March, Valley, Spanish Fort, Salmon, Grayson, Prairie Mound, Red River Station, Eagle Point, Packers, Colony, White and Priddy, Sandy Mound, Ringgold, Belcherville, Nocona, Red Bud, Mountain Creek, Pigtail, Long Branch, Greenbrier, Bonita, Battle Ax, Lone Prairie, Eureaka, Barrel Springs, Dixie, Exelsier, Saint Jo, Rock Springs, Aurlia, Blue Mound, Stoneburg, Montague,

Mt. Pleasant, Hopewell, Adora, Belknap, Wood-

land, Centralia, Peabody, Peak, Lone Star, New Hope, Dye Mound, Union Hill, Alamo, Mt. Tabor, Post Oak, Hardy, Mallard, Leona, Lindale, Stony Point, Bowie, Bird Hollow, Dry Valley, Round Prairie, Salona, Hankins, Brushy, Denver, Walker, Forestburg, Prairie Branch, Rock Hill, Fruitland, Liberty, Tage, Gordon Gap and Harmony.

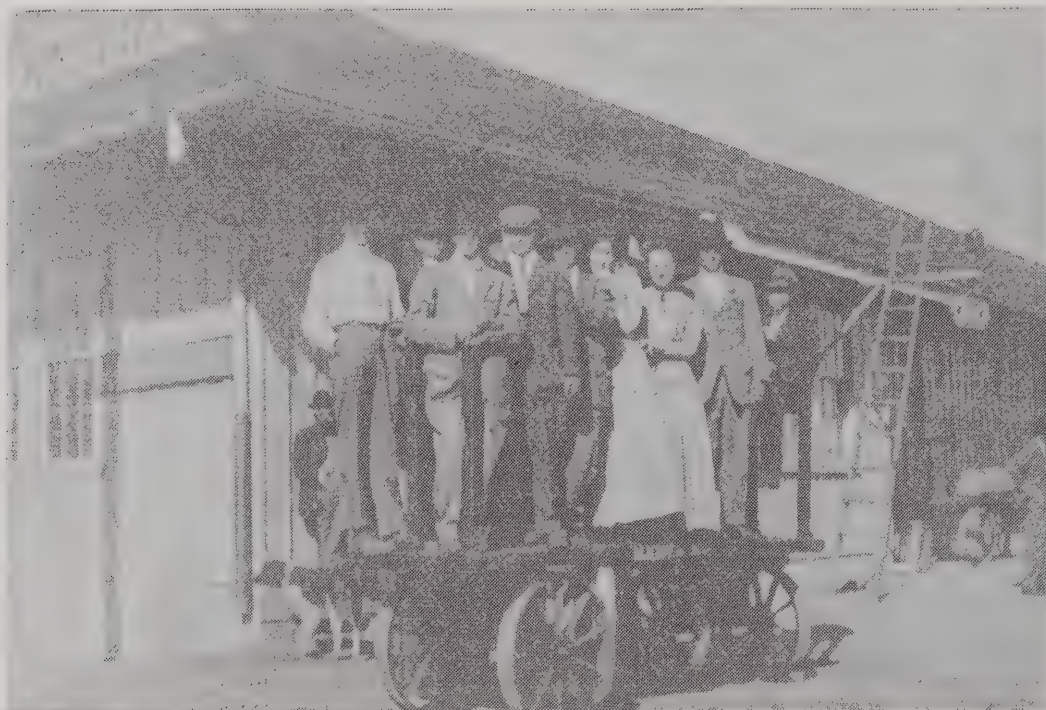
By 1910 the county had reached a population of 25,123. There was a farmer and his family, usually very large, farming practically every forty-acres. Cotton buyers and sales offices were thick in each town. With the coming of long staple cotton drove many from the farm because of improper farming practices. By 1920 the population had declined to 22,200.

The roaring twenties were not so kind to farming. More and more people gave up cotton farming and much land was turned back to pasture after being damaged from over production. Many schools were closed because of the decline in scholastics. The 1930 census gave the county's population as 19,159.

The scholastic decline promoted consolidations for fewer but larger schools district. Distance was no longer a problem after school busses were introduced into the educational picture. The process continued until only six high schools remain in the county: Bowie, Nocona, Saint Jo, Forestburg, Prairie Valley and Goldburg. Elementary schools are maintained at Caps Corner, Sunset and Montague.

The returning of the land to pasture has marked the death of such towns as Uz, Tage, Belcherville, Red River Station, Eagle Point, Hardy, Illinois Bend and others which once boasted post offices, gins, saloons and other business firms.

As Montague County celebrates its 100th birthday, it is only proper that schools of the county that helped educate the generations since 1858 should be recognized. The early day teachers should be saluted for the active part they played in the community life and for the hand they had in developing the generations into progressive and useful Americans.



Top Picture: Waiting for the afternoon train to arrive was a popular practice pastime at the turn of the century. Sunday afternoons always attracted large crowds to the depot.

Bottom Picture: Two popular types of transportation, the horse on its way out and the automobile replacing him.

BOWIE GROCERY CO.

"YOUR FRIENDS"

Joe Garlington Lynn Garlington
Bowie, Texas

Matheson Chevrolet Co.

AUTHORIZED CHEVROLET DEALER

Nocona Phone 444 Texas

CONGRATULATIONS FROM



Bruce P. Robbins
TROPHIES, INC.

The Souths Largest Exclusive
and Complete Award Service

2819 Live Oak
Phone TA 3-2115
Dallas

1340 N. Main
Phone MA 6-1054
Ft. Worth

SAINT JO (Head of Elm) CALLED "GATEWAY TO WEST" - - IS OLDEST TOWN IN COUNTY

Historians have labeled Saint Jo the "Gateway to the West", because of the part this oldest town of the county played as a frontier settlement. From 1849 until 1873 it was known as Head of Elm.

Government records in Washington, D. C., reveal that Capt. Randolph B. Marcy camped at the springs at the head of Elm Fork of the Trinity with his surveying crew in 1849. Capt. John Pope and his men camped here in 1854 as they surveyed for a proposed federal railroad across the county from Arkansas. The Civil War later resulted in cancellation of the building program.

The U. S. Second Cavalry out of Missouri under Col. Albert Sidney Johnson camped at Head of Elm in 1855 en route to establish frontier forts in West Texas. His journal makes reference to the area.

In 1857 Col. James B. Leach led the government "Corn Trains" to Head of Elm to camp before continuing on to Fort Belknap with supplies for the soldiers stationed there. His official journal refers to the frontier settlement here as the last west of Gainesville.

The first settlers to arrive in the area now known as Saint Jo in 1849 were Ithane and Prince Singletary. They were said to have been looking for gold. They settled about one and one half miles south of head of Elm creek. Shortly they were joined by a John Hughes family. They were disappointed when they found no gold and moved to Whitesboro. About two years later the Singletary family moved back and settled what is now Saint Jo, but called it Head of Elm.

Little is known of the town between 1858 and 1870. It was one of the voting places when the county seat was selected and the county organized. It was one of the sites considered, but the voters favored the Montague site in the center of the county.

Among the pioneers who arrived at Head of Elm in 1869 was Capt. Irb H. Boggess who was born in Tennessee November 5, 1835. He had served with the Confederate army during the Civil War. Other settlers arriving about a year later included the Meador and Pedigo families from Tennessee; the A. H. McLane, Jasper Field, W. N. Bellah, I. Chancey and Howell families.

In 1871 there were seven stores in the village. The five grocery stores sold whiskey and there was a post office and blacksmith shop. Merchants hauled their goods from Jefferson, Tex., and Shreveport, La., by ox wagon. Great herds of cattle going up the trail were watered here and the riders spent considerable time in Head of Elm.

In 1872 Capt. Boggess and J. A. Howell formed a partnership and purchased 640 acres of land from the Alex Kitchen survey. That year Boggess began the erection of the first permanent building to house his Stonewall Saloon. The building still stands at the corner of Howell and Main. The saloon has been reconstructed for the centennial celebration.

In August 1873 the town promoters laid out the present townsite, encompassing much of the original village of Head of Elm. Some say they used a grapevine and followed a Spanish compass with the streets running southeast to northwest and southwest to northeast for one-half mile in each direction from the square.

Capt. Boggess provided the volunteer surveying helpers with a jug of whiskey, which was left under a shade tree on the square. Howell, a temperate man, was persuaded to indulge in the celebration but the single drink made him ill. Boggess remarked that "ole Jo" was so saintly that he would just call the new town "Saint Jo", according to A. A. (Bige) Boggess, son of the town's founder. Bige Boggess' mother was the former Elizabeth Barbara McLane, daughter of A. H. McLane, rancher, and he was born in the new town June 15, 1877. He operates a hardware store in Saint Jo. The Boggess homesite has been donated to the local Boy Scouts and is now known as Boggess Park. Capt. Boggess died in 1917.

Rev. James Anderson of New York state arrived in Saint Jo in 1876 to become to the first Presbyterian minister. He built the first church in 1878 and held the pastorate for some forty years before going to Bowie to help establish the Presbyterian church there.

Saint Jo was organized as a town in 1880 with D. H. Carver as the first mayor. The first written records were begun April 7, 1884 when W. N. Bellah was city secretary. The city was incorporated in 1886 when the population reached 1000.

The first telephone system was installed by a Mr. Matthews in 1882. The first dial exchange in the county was installed by the Saint Jo Telephone Co. in 1956. This company now operates a new dial system at Caps Corner to service the surrounding area which includes Illinois Bend, and it enterconnects with the Saint Jo system.

From the city records of November 10, 1886, is this quotation: "Resolve, that the Gainesville, Henrietta and Western railroad be granted right of way across the streets of Saint Jo, and through the streets as at present surveyed, provided they occupy no more space on the streets than is actually necessary." This was written by Secretary W. S. Walker and approved by Mayor S. T. Payne.

The first newspaper was established in 1876 as the "Saint Jo Gladiator" with Willie Lyles as editor. The town has never been without a newspaper and at times the town had two newspapers. The Saint Jo Tribune is now the oldest newspaper in the county.

The first school was built in 1871 of logs with split logs for desks and benches. The second school building was erected in 1875. Others were erected in 1882, 1902 and the present high school building was built in 1922 and was recently remodeled. The present elementary and auditorium buildings were completed in 1955.

(Continued on Saint Jo Program Page)



Top Picture: Opening of the March Hardware Store in 1892. This was one of the first stone constructed buildings in Nocona. The cement used was made on the Maxwell Ranch between Montague and Saint Jo. The building is now occupied by the Branch Chapman Motor Co. The men in the picture are l.r.: Lee, Dr. Johnson & Son, Rue Cherewith, Jess Bargance, Dr. Clark, Jim Roberson, O. L. Hamilton, John March, S. M. Allen, Dr. Briscoe, Dr. Hemphill, Webb March, Tran Whately, B. Kitchen, Arch March, R. R. Alexander, Tran Whitelow, Andy Atkins, S. J. Alexander, Howard Laforce, J. L. Davis, Mack Fry, W. M. Whitlock, J. O. Pool, Dr. Nance.

Bottom Picture: The gun rack on the inside of the March Hardware Store. J. B. March shown in the picture was first in the hardware business in Spanish Fort before coming to Nocona.

ALEXANDER'S STOAR

Serving Nocona Groceries Since 1888

Phone 21

Nocona, Texas

Chrysler—DeSota—Dodge—Plymouth

Branch Chapman Motors

Direct Factory Dealer

Phone 446, 536

Nocona, Texas

Daugherty Funeral Home

Nocona

Phone 20

Texas

Saint Jo

Phone 2400

NOCONA JEWELERS

AUBREY ADAMS

206 CLAY STREET

Nocona, Texas

City of Nocona, "Leathergoods Center of Southwest", Founded By Railroad Man

Nocona, the "leathergoods center of the Southwest" was created in 1887 by a Gainesville, Henrietta and Western railroad surveyor by the name of B. S. Walten. The line was a branch of the Missouri Pacific and in 1886, Walten had surveyed Abilene, Texas. When he was sent to North Texas he found that railroad had the small degree of bend in the track as the Missouri Pacific had in Abilene, he took the Platt scratched off the name and put in the Nocona, the name was suggested by a close friend John L. Davis.

Davis had been a Texas Ranger and had served under Captain Sul Ross in 1860, when his company engaged a large band of comanche indians led by Chief Nocona, in a raging three day battle on the Pease river. After the battle, Captain Ross and the Rangers found that Chief Nocona's wife was a white woman.

Investigation found that she was Cynithia Ann Parker captured 24 years previously, on May 19, 1836, 300 braves surprised and killed all but five at Fort Parker on the Navasota river.

When head of rail moved west and the railroad workers had torn down their tents and gone, there had been enough business men that had moved into the new town to assure its existence. Permanent buildings had been constructed, and the main business area was on front street facing the railroad. Nocona was incorporated as village in 1891, a lawyer J. O. Pool was the first mayor and served with seven aldermen. Dick Cato was the first Marshall, Chris Morris was the first peace officer. Wade Horton who came from Spanish Fort was the first postmaster. Wade carried the mail in his pocket and distributed it as he sat in front of the wagon yard or store. The first livery stable was built by Lee Crenshaw, Lynon and Gribble established the first lumber yard, and J. P. Dowd was the manager. The first newspaper the Nocona Argus was edited by J. V. Watkins, then by Tolland, Bob Scegog, and Egan. T. M. Stump bought the paper and changed the name to Nocona News.

Daily train service attracted more people to the area, cattle men started using the town as their base for supplies. Among one of the first to take advantage of the new rail service was H. J. Justin who moved his Cowboy Boot manufacturing business from Spanish Fort to Nocona. He built a new factory building, hired several men to help in the factory, having become known as an outstanding boot maker while in business in Spanish Fort. Mr. Justin had seven children, three sons and four daughters, all worked in the factory and learned the boot business under their father.

In 1919 Earl Justin and his brother-in-law, G. W. Humphreys decided to use the scrap leather from the boot company to make key cases and other small leather specialty items, they started the Justin Leathergoods Company. It was soon found that the idea was not workable, so they continued in business using new leather. The factory has

continued to grow, and G. W. Humphreys is now president of the board, John Justin, Jr., nephew of the founder is president, and Glenn Etheredge is manager.

T. B. Wilkes, an employee of Justin Leathergoods Co., organized a stock Company and started the Nocona Leathergoods Company, to manufacture athletic equipment. After a short time Wilkes sold out and R. E. (Bob) Storey became its president and Manager, a position he still holds.

After H. J. Justin's death, his sons felt that there were greater opportunities in the boot business in Fort Worth, and they moved their factory. Miss Enid Justin, their sister, felt that they should stay in Nocona. She left the group and organized the Nocona Boot Company, Inc. She has the distinction of being the only woman president of a cowboy boot factory in the world, and still operates her factory.

Floyd and Ethel Garner started their factory, the F&E Leathercraft in the thirties and have been manufacturing leather watch bands and other types of leather items.

With the establishing of towns, promoters came from every place and advertised the many opportunities in these new towns. Many large ranches were divided into smaller farms, and the great prairies were plowed up, and planted with cotton, more people brought more business and then more merchants, and in 1910 there were 25,123 people in the county. There were 54 cotton gins, Nocona boasted of a dozen or more cotton buying companies. The land soon wore out from lack of care, and farmers began to move, the land went back to pasture lands and large ranches again replaced the small cotton farmer. Only two cotton gins operated in the county last year.

In 1900 there were three telephone exchanges operating in Nocona, most of them operated in the back of a drug store or some other type of business. In 1904 D. G. Garner, Sr. came to Nocona and purchased one of these exchanges, which at that time had only 75 stations. He and his son have operated it as the Nocona telephone company since then.

Schools grew with the town and the first school district, the Greenbrier school, organized in 1877, and covered 60 square miles. Churches were also constructed as the population increased.

Starting March 1, 1939, Miss Enid Justin, president of the Nocona Boot Co., sponsored a Pony express ride from Nocona to Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco, California. There were 12 riders that started the long race, the winner was to receive \$750 cash prize. Chris Uselton was the only Nocona contestant. The race was won by Shannon Davidson, Matador cowboy, with Chris Uselton coming in second. Judges for the race were A. S. Gilbert, A. Billings, L. A. Parton, Charles Thomason, and F. L. Perry. They drove cars and observed riders to determine that all rules

were obeyed.

This was Nocona's biggest publicity venture.

In the mid twenties Nocona had its first oil boom, oil was discovered in the north field, and thousands of people flocked here, however in a short time it leveled off to a normal working crew and since then has been one of Nocona's appreciated sources of income. Many allied firms to the industry have moved to Nocona to supply the industry. Additional fields have been drilled to deeper sands, and the exploration and production have been constant since the first discovery.

When American Petroleum Industry started its Oil Progress Week celebrations eight years ago, Nocona was among the first to enter into the celebration, and is one of the two cities in Texas that has a celebration each year, the other being Houston. They have received national recognition for the outstanding job. They have been awarded the one year plaque, and the five year award, and have completed three years on their 10 year award.

Perhaps the greatest honor bestowed on Nocona was when the State department in Washington selected it to be one of the host cities for Stefan Gunnlaugsson, Mayor of Hafnarfjordur, Iceland, on April 25, 1958. Nocona was selected as one of the outstanding towns in the United States and felt that many of the problems that Gunnlaugsson was interested in had been solved in Nocona. The mayor arrived at the Wichita Falls airport and was met by Wade Bond, James McCall, Miss Enid Justin, Mayor Weldon Cowan, Chamber of Commerce president Dr. Harold B. Wallis and Jeff S. Henderson. The mayor visited the school, the leathergood factories, Joe Benton's museum, hospital, ranches, had a business session with the city

council, and was entertained in the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Humphreys. A letter received on May 6, stated, "Dear Mr. Henderson, I have already heard from Mr. Gunnlaugsson about the grand time he had in Nocona. He was overwhelmed by the warmth of the hospitality he received from everyone in your town. He asked me specifically to thank you and Mayor Cowan and everyone else who made his visit so wonderful.

"Let me assure you that in all his visits he will have no experience more pleasant or profitable than his experience in Nocona. Many thanks for everything. With kindest regards, I remain, Cordially yours, Davis S. Hoopes."

Nocona's growth and success has been its people who have worked together in making it a great town.

Records at the city Hall indicate that Nocona was chartered a village in 1890 and chartered as a city in 1893. The mayors have been J. D. Hagler, John Wilson, W. A. Davis, Price McCall, W. H. Admire, D. T. Herring, Captain J. T. Rowland, Walter Hodges, John Biter, T. B. Wilkes, H. S. Callaway, Ernest Curlin, John Martin, Joe Benton, O. V. Beck, R. W. McDonald, Robert Crain, Jack Foster, M. K. Thrasher, W. J. Stone, J. M. Bond, Weldon Cowan.

Nocona's City Hall was built in 1941, when R. W. McDonald was mayor, Joe Bond and Frank Foster were commissioners. The water tower was built in 1912 west of town near the old reunion grounds, and was later moved to its present site. The first fire truck was bought in 1923 and was a Dodge with LaFranc equipment.

The first record of poll tax was 1904.

THE CHISHOLM TRAIL

After the Civil War there were millions of cattle on the ranges of Texas and a big meat market in the East. The big problem was how to get Texas cattle to eastern markets.

Jesse Chisholm an ex-army scout knew of a buffalo trail, that went from Texas to Kansas. The idea of trail driving the cattle to rail head was developed.

Cattle were started from South Texas as the grass started getting green and moved with the grass, the Longhorn put on weight on the trail, and became a very popular animal. They were driven to Abilene or Fort Dodge, Kansas, sold to cattle buyers who shipped them east by rail.

It was soon discovered that a profitable herd consisted of 10,000 cattle, 40 horses, 10 cowboys, a horse wrangler, wagon boss and trail boss.

Montague county became very important to trail drivers for it was at Red River Station that most of the cattle crossed the river. High banks on both sides of the river make crossings very scarce. The trail was very wide with herds heading for the crossing so that it made it like a giant funnel.

Red River Station was the last town until they reached Kansas, the herds crossed into Indian Territory and headed north.

It normally took four to five months to make the drive, and many old timers have related stories about as many as 20 herds grazing on the prairies around Red River Station waiting for the river to go down or for conditions to become favorable for continuing the drive.

CHISHOLM TRAIL ROUND-UP

The Chisholm Trail Round-Up Rodeo was developed through community cooperation. The young folks of Nocona were asking for an arena where they could rope and hold a rodeo each year. Sixteen men interested in such a project met May 6, 1952.

Each man agreed to put in \$5 and go to work. They were: Sonny Gilbert, Obie Tettleton, Mac Fuller, Carl Goodspread, Don King, Billy Jo Billings, Winifred Crow, Pete Skinner, Chriss Uselton, Harold Skinner, John Shipler, Bertie Rich, Roger Cowden, Alfred Hewitt, Woody Copeland, Ralph Abbott, Leslie Combs and Jeff S. Henderson. Temporary officers were: Uselton, president; Rich, v-p; Billings, secretary.

The City of Nocona agreed to let the association have 70 acres out of park land, and permanent officers were named: Miss Enid Justin pres.; Bertie Rich, v-p; James McCall, second v-p; Mrs. Bonnie Rich, secretary. Uselton was named executive manager and Buck Keck, assistant.

Everybody in the community put their shoulder to the wheel. Oil companies donated pipe and drill stem, dirt contractors loaned equipment and men, trucking firms loaned vehicles, welders and other citizens donated their time. Volunteer firemen built a concession stand.

S. D. (Pig) Howard was chairman of the committee that built loading docks and fence. J. D. Franklin constructed and donated east stands.

The annual rodeo each year is staged in memory of the riders of historical Chisholm Trail, which meant so much to the progress of Montague county.

EARLY DAY CATTLE BUSINESS IN MONTAGUE COUNTY

By **JOE BENTON**

In the 1890's Nocona was one of the principal gateways to the Chickasaw nation, Southern Indian Territory, which was a vast, rich, grazing area. Most of the Chickasaw tribes resided on the Washita River. Only a few came down into the southern part of their nation. Any white man in this nation was under Arkansas law. The Indians were under Indian tribal laws. Under their laws any Indian was permitted to fence and use as a ranch all the land he desired to enclose just so he did not get closer than one-fourth mile of any other Indian's ranch. This created a number of one-fourth mile lanes.

Most ranches were established by inter-married white men. Barbed wire had just come into use, and a number of large pastures were fenced and stocked, principally with steers from south Texas. Cattle could be raised cheaper in south Texas, but they did not have the grass there to fatten them. The Chickasaw nation's southern Indian Territory had an abundance of excellent grasses. A great many of these south Texas steers were shipped to Nocona and driven across the Red River to pasture.

In the Spring of 1893, the King Ranch shipped 6,000 longhorn, four and five year old steers (twelve train loads) to this county. They were consigned to W. E. (Bill) Washington. Washington had married a native Chickasaw and had fenced a large pasture on Mud Creek about 30 miles north of Nocona. This is now in Jefferson County, Oklahoma. He brought his hands from the Mud Creek Ranch over to Nocona to receive the steers. The men branded 6,000 steers K. W. (King and Washington). They were driven across Red River to pasture where they grew and fattened that summer and fall. They were then brought back to Nocona and shipped to the St. Louis market.

From 1890 to 1897 most of the cattle from this area were marketed in train load lots in St. Louis and Chicago. Kansas City and Fort Worth had not yet built stock yards to handle cattle in any large numbers.

At that time if you had called a cowboy a "Cow Puncher" he would have been insulted. When a train load of cattle was brought in for shipment to St. Louis or Chicago, the Railroad required the shipper to furnish four men to go with the train. Most of the ranchers picked up local laborers instead of taking cowboys from their work on the ranch. These four men rode and slept in the caboose. They were furnished with prod poles by the railroad, and at intervals the train would stop at a siding. There the men went up and down outside the line of cars and punched up any animal that was done, to keep them from being trampled to death. They were literally cow punchers. Their job ended when the train reached the market.

Many shipments of cattle in and out of Nocona

classed it as a real cow town. According to the western movies of the present day, one would think it was a wild and wooly place. This was not true. Some of the cowboys patronized the saloons and occasionally pulled off fights and shooting scrapes and other wild deportment. But most of the men working with these ranchmen were sober, sturdy men who were intensely interested in their jobs and were saving their money to someday enter business for themselves. The train load shipments lasted until about 1897, at which time Kansas City and Fort Worth had developed to the point that they could take care of cattle in quantity and smaller shipments could be profitably made.

During the heyday of the shipment of steers from South Texas, a Captain Ed Morris, who operated a large ranch in the Chickasaw nation on Wildhorse Creek, received a shipment of 2700 five-year-old longhorn steers. These steers were wild, men-fighters and as tough as could be found anywhere, and Morris brought his hands over to receive and brand their steers. The cowboys were three days branding the herd. Capt. Morris' brand was 7HL connected. It could not be put on wrong side up because it reads the same both ways. I sat on the stockyard fence most of three days watching the men work. They were the best ropers I have ever seen. The King-Washington branding was a good show, but their steers were not as wild and fighting as were the Morris cattle.

Washington Mud Creek Ranch became generally known as the K. W. Ranch. The place is still operated by the present owner as the K. W. Ranch. Washington moved to Southeast New Mexico and assembled a large ranch there. Carlsbad Cavern is located in this ranch. Washington is survived by a son, Johnny Washington, who lives in Albuquerque.

COLORFUL COWBOY

One of Montague counties most colorful cowboys is I. N. (Ike) Stout of Ringgold. Born in Missouri in 1874 he came to Texas with his parents and settled at Ringgold.

He started throwing a rope when he was six and has been a cowboy all his life. Now at the age of 84 he is still very active. He rides horseback daily and he still helps to work cattle.

Ike hasn't been to a doctor for 50 years and credits his good health to regular habits, with a midnight snack of warm mush and milk.

He will make appearances in all of the parades held in the various towns during the centennial week celebration.



These Bowie street scenes were made in 1900, showing from top to bottom panels: Mason, Tarrant and Walnut Streets, and the corner of Smythe and Tarrant.



Bottom Picture: Students of South Ward Public School of Bowie are pictured in an Armistice Day photograph made in 1924.

BURGESS FUNERAL HOME

ESTABLISHED 1895

Ambulance Service Day or Night

Phone TR 2-1144

Bowie, Tex.

Security Abstract Company

Montague, Texas

G. W. Self and R. L. Self, Owners

P. O. Box 67

Phone 77

BOTEX FEED MILL

THOMAS AYRES, Owner

Bowie

Texas

Griffin REXALL Drugs

PRESCRIPTIONS

Bowie

Texas

COMING OF THE RAILROAD TO COUNTY; THE SUBSEQUENT FOUNDING OF BOWIE

By **HARRIET V. MORROW**

Long before the railroad came to Montague County men like Mr. Thomas who owned land on Farmer's Creek, and who later became the first Adjutant General of Texas, and perhaps Dr. Polly and E. S. Singletarry debated with the surveyor, Colonel Montague, as to where the county seat should be located. There were no delegates from the southern part of the county. In all fairness they decided upon the center of the county, the present site of Montague. According to Mrs. W. R. Potter's "History of Montague County", no one lived there at that time, and nothing about the place indicated that it would ever be a town. The sole tenants consisted of a solemn looking group of post oak trees.

That was one hundred years ago - 1858. Montague without benefit of railroads became a flourishing trade center. Louise and Obedience Savage, grand-daughters of W. B. Savage who moved to Montague County in 1853, recalled the story about him going to Montague in 1862 after an iron wash pot. They said that a "runner" had stopped at their house and told him a shipment of iron wash pots had arrived. Their grandfather drove a yoke of oxen to a cart and led two steers behind the cart to Montague. He traded the steers for the pot. That was transportation in 1858 - an ox-driven cart, a news bearer on horse back, horse driven stage coaches and mule driven wagons. In 1878 Montague County had the following towns: Montague, the county seat and containing some five or six stores; Saint Jo, Burlington, Red River Station, Queen's Peak, Forestburg and a few smaller villages. Bowie did not exist. Its founding in 1882 and its rapid development which in a short time outranked the existing towns, was due entirely to the coming of the railroad.

Although the charter to build the Fort Worth and Denver City Railway was granted by the legislature May 26, 1873, actual construction was delayed for almost nine years because of the money panic of 1873. However, by 1881 the survey of the railroad was completed and grading well under way. The grading of the road bed and laying of cross ties extended from Hodge, 14 miles from Fort Worth, to Wichita Falls. By February 27, 1882 the initial stretch of road was ready for track and celebrated with ceremony. A shiny silver spike was used to fasten the first rail into place at Hodge on that date. From that moment on progress was rapid. On May 1, 1882, at seven o'clock on a Monday morning the first regular trains started their maiden trips simultaneously from both ends of the line to be followed by afternoon trains in each direction. From the beginning, of course, the railway, or more precisely all those who had a financial stake in its success, were exceedingly active



Harriet V. Morrow has been a resident of Bowie for 26 years. She came to Bowie with her husband who was erecting engineer for the Service Pipe Line Company. She studied at the University of Chicago and University of Wyoming, receiving her degree in Political Science and History in 1928. Mrs. Morrow taught school and was an administrator for 10 years.

She has been in the restaurant business in Bowie for 25 years. Her hobby has been studying the history of Montague County and pioneer life of the area.

The motif of her coffee shop has been historical since its inception and she has received national recognition for her Jim Bowie place mats.

in the promotion of on-line townsites. As at Decatur, so at Bowie, an excursion was organized as soon as the rails were laid.

As was typical of the building of all railroads, wherever construction stopped temporarily, or wherever it found water or a favorable site, towns came into being. It is known that such points as Decatur and Henrietta had been settled in advance of the railway's coming. Towns such as Rhome, Alvord, Sunset and Bowie owed their very existence to the rails. Bowie became the railhead and retained that position until the tracks were completed to Wichita Falls. Progress in construction had been comparatively rapid until the tracks reached Decatur. That was on May 1, 1882. Forty miles of track had been laid in two months. It took two months to complete the remaining twenty miles to Bowie.

The engineers who had the task of following the survey met difficulties as they reached the fringe of the Cross Timbers. With mules and



Top Picture: This is the entire student body of the Nocona school in 1896. The old school was located on the same site where the North Ward School is now located.

Bottom Picture: Student body of the Dixie School in 1902. L. C. Stouder was the teacher.

F. & E. LEATHERCRAFT

Manufacturers of leather watch straps, etc.

FLOYD and ETHEL GARNER, Owners
Nocona Texas

Curlin Insurance Agency

Dependable Insurance Since 1930

Nocona, Texas Phone 130

OUR DRUG STORE

THE REXALL STORE

Nocona Texas

NOCONA CASH STORE

GROCERIES AND MARKET

We Give PRUDENTIAL STAMPS

WINDY LEE, Owner
Nocona Texas

horses and scrapers, swarms of men with picks and shovels built high, curved grades, excavated passageways through hills not too high, circled them if it meant not too much trackage. The story is that when they reached Bowie, going through the mound on the outer skirts of the town became an obstacle. Mr. Tangley, one of the engineers, insisted upon circling the mound. Construction was halted. A decision had to be made. Mr. Tangley went to Fort Worth to consult with the officials. The officials may have suspected there was pressure being put on Tangley by residents of near-by Queen's Peak. Circling the mound would mean bringing the railroad nearer the Peak. Mr. Tangley's recommendation was rejected and he returned to Bowie with dynamite and announced he had been instructed to blast a passageway through the mound. The day of the blasting was one to be remembered and residents who later lived here then referred to the place as "Tangley's Gulch". At this point also, the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad Company intersects the Fort Worth and Denver Railway. Over the two railroads was built a three turn "Crooked" bridge when the first highway was built. The bridge was so unusual that it rated "Ripley's "Believe it or Not" cartoon shortly before it was torn down in 1934.

The first train reached Bowie in July 1, 1882. Overton "From the Gulf to the Rockies". The "tent city" grew and by 1883 the town boasted a population of 1,100 persons. Most of the migratory workmen had gone on to other towns and this population was permanent.

This story is not about people or personages who left Bowie and became famous or great. It has to do with the courageous men and women who came to a wilderness and built a great town. No big industrialist came with outside capital to make it a "pay roll" town. It started and has survived on "trade" and marketing. The fact that the town retained a stable citizenry was due to the fact that many of the inhabitants were already natives of the area. The descendants of some of these pioneer merchants are still in business.

Queen's Peak four miles away moved to the new town site, buildings and all. Today nothing remains there except the monument which tells its own story.

QUEEN'S PEAK INDIAN LOOKOUT

Discovered by white men in 1848. Permanent white settlement began in this region in 1858. Its early history is a long, long story of Indian raids.

In memory of pioneer women who in the midst of such dangers daily risked their lives for other, this monument is dedicated.

Erected by the State of Texas — 1936.

The history of Bowie is the history of Queen's Peak and the other settlements in the area.

While the tall, waist high grass beckoned to the cattle man, few settlers had established themselves in the south part of the county by 1858 because of the danger of Indian attacks. A few daring individuals such as John Roe and a Mr. Cryner attempted a settlement at the Peak in May, 1858.

a Mr. Bradin lived nearby. "Doc" Pinney came from Illinois and bought land near Brushy Mound. He built a roof over a rock lined dug-out which included a fire-place. Further back in the Cross Timbers in what is known as the Selma community the Balls, Gambills, Fords, Standifers and Marletts came. Migration to this area was halted by the advent of the war between the States. That the region was sufficiently populated to warrant protection was evidenced by the establishment of a Ranger station on Brushy Mound in 1859. This station commanded by Captain John Scanlon, was abandoned when war was imminent. The Federal troops were also withdrawn from nearby forts and the frontier was left completely unprotected from the Indians for a decade.

The development of the area began in earnest in 1868. Many people in the east and north whose lives had been disrupted by the war turned to Texas as the land of promise. Two great currents of migration tended toward Texas. One flowed downward through the Indian Territory entering the realm of the Lone Star state at the Red River. The other cut out across the waters of the Gulf of Mexico landing numberless "seekers of new lands" at New Orleans and Galveston. Some entered Montague county through Grayson and Cooke counties - others came up the east side of the Brazos and the Cross Timbers - all by wagon and on horse back.

The greatest influx of settlers to arrive in the state with Montague County their destination was early in 1870 when a wagon train of forty wagons left Tuscaloosa, Alabama, some coming over-land the entire journey, others choosing to come by boat as far as New Orleans, then across country. The Lindsey families were in the latter group. Those coming by land included the Alsabrook, Kilcrease, Watkins, Carpenter, Stallings and others. Their homes were all eventually located in the region surrounding the site which was to become Bowie.

Colonel Lon Alsabrook established a general mercantile store at Queen's Peak shortly after his arrival. The families of Rile Willingham, R. J. Sandifer and Marlett were living there in a corral type of stockade built by Jarrell McDonald for unified defense against Indian raids. The Peak had become a stopping point for the Army supply trains and troops. Their wagons also carried the United States mail through to the distant forts. In Scribner's Monthly, 1873, there is a reference to "the Elpaso Stage Coach" leaving from Denison for Sherman and points west which gave the road past the Peak the name of Elpaso trail. The Colonel arranged for a post office in his store. The mail had previously been exchanged at Adoria, four miles distant from the Peak. From that community Albert Arnold came in 1873 and operated a gin at the Peak. He also regarded the location so favorably that he bought 40 acres of land and divided it into lots for sale. By the time the railroad came the town had grown to a considerable size with seven stores, a livery stable, a hotel, a school house, church, and a project underway for the development of the Peak as a health resort. Young Dr. Riley with his wife and baby, Mrs. Jessie (W. C.) Boone came from Denison to establish a prac-



Bottom Picture: Commissioner's Court, Montague County, 1907. l.r. T. J. Wheeler, pct. 2; George March, county judge; R. D. Rudgely, County Clerk; I. N. Preston, pct. 4; I. T. Schultz, pct. 1; J. A. Waldoup, pct. 3.



Top Picture: Home of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Grayson erected 2 miles northeast of Red River Station in 1872. Lumber was hauled from Jefferson, Texas via Sherman by ox wagon. The basement of the house ran full length and was used as the first public school of the "Station" area as well as for religious services for the community. Farm machinery shown was first in the area, picture was made just before the turn of the century. House was torn down in 1928. Grayson shown on horse, wife and daughter are also in picture.

DAVID MOYER MOTOR CO.

Sales **STUDEBAKER** Service
Automotive Glass
Bowie — Phone TR-2-1561 — Texas

GIST DRUG STORE

"WHERE FRIENDS MEET"

Nocona Texas

Foxworth-Galbraith Lumber Co.

Nocona Saint Jo
Texas

HINDS CLARK MOTOR CO.

YOUR FORD DEALER

Nocona Texas

tice. He established a drug department in the Colonel's store. The general store closely resembled today's modern drug store. The molasses and the cracker barrels were under the prescription counter and the spades and shovels leaned against the patent medicine shelves.

Back into the Cross Timbers had come the Jim Croford family in 1877. Their daughter Annie (Mrs. Sam Heard) then four years old, recalls while they lived there their trips to town were more frequently to Cowan's than to the Peak. There was the Cowan's sawmill and gristmill, gin the Mason Mercantile store and Cowan's boarding house. Their nearest neighbors were at Selma where also there was a store, gin, saloon, etc. She recalls a Dr. Baker coming to attend them from Newport and they went to church at Prairie Branch. The Crofords as well as their neighbor near Brushy Mound, "Doc" Pinney who had returned to his ranch after the war, engaged in raising sheep. The venture was not successful due to the diseases the sheep incurred from parasitic insects in this climate.

The range was fast disappearing as the settlers turned to farming rather than cattle growing. Short staple cotton was produced in quantity - Kaffi corn and wheat and other grains grew in abundance. The steam engine had supplanted the ox-driven inclined wheel gin of the early days. Coal was discovered in the region between Cougar and Brushy Mounds. The entire area was lush with opportunity. Transportation was the obstacle - the nearest market was Gainesville 68 miles distant.

The increase in population in Montague County from less than a thousand in 1870 to over 10,000 in 1880 was due in large part to the development of the southern part of the county. The population of the early settlements had also increased but some of the members of these early settlements such as Jarrell McDonald and his sons had moved into the open range country near the Peak.

The residents of Queen's Peak had hoped the railroad would at least come near enough to the Peak that they could share its benefits by remaining where they were. Instead it missed them by four miles and the railhead was located near the base of Cougar Mound.

The typical migratory laborers that followed railroad construction came to the new camp. The settlers rode horse back to the camp, many of them great distances to obtain work. No one took time to erect a building. Tents were used for shelter. The tents were lined parallel with the railroad and the rows which later became streets were named for Montague and adjoining counties. Thus we have Wilbarger, Jones, Clay, Wise, Tarrant streets on either side of the railroad. Gradually as businesses sprang up (also in tents) the cross streets or rows were identified by the names of some of these first merchants. We have Mason, Bowie's main street, named for the groceryman who had moved his merchandise from the Cowan gin settlement. Mr. Mason was also a preacher. The next street over where the first depot stood was named for a saloon keeper, Otto Smythe, who opened the first saloon on that street. The street was better known, for many years, as "Smoky Row". Other

streets that were named for early day merchants were Lindsey, Cummins, Hutchison, Strong, Cowan, Lowrie, Matthews, Cosby, being the principal ones.

The typical migratory merchants also came and set up tents. One Mr. Golightly erected a huge circus tent in the center of Smythe and Tarrant streets. Some went into business with boards across barrels. Captain Paddox in his *Northern and Western Texas History* says (June, 1882) . . . "and Bowie, now the metropolis of Montague County, had just come into nominal being, but as yet without a business house." He meant a wooden, brick or "ironclad" structure. Mr. Minnie Graves Slaughter states that in the fall of 1882 her father built the first house to be built on Wise Street. She was three at the time and still lives on the same street. Mr. Jim Burgess who had hauled the cross ties for the railroad by wagon from Joshua and Gainesville was now engaged in hauling lumber for residences and business houses. (Mr. Burgess, father of Mr. Alleen Taliaferro and Robert Burgess, left the area and went to Boston to resume a medical education which he had started in England. In Boston he heard about the new embalming course being offered and studied it instead. He returned to Bowie, married Miss Jessie Alsabrook, and engaged in the lumber business, from which he also operated as an undertaker. His furniture and undertaking business is still operated by his son and daughter.)

The business people at Queen's Peak were not to be out-done by the "feather merchants". They moved to Bowie. Colonel Alsabrook moved his store and arranged for the coaches carrying the mail to deliver it to the tent town. They attempted to have the town named "Queenstown" and when that name was rejected they submitted "Queen City". When it was rejected by the postal department they were at a loss for a name. One of the popular workmen on the railroad was named Buie. The pronunciation suggested the name of a Texas hero, Jim Bowie. They submitted the name of "Bowie" which was accepted. "The Little Wonder of the West" finally had a name. It bears the name of the hero of the Alamo and the knife which he made famous.

A brochure published in Bowie in 1883 describes the town of Bowie, as "The Year Old Wonder of the West". Within a year from the date of the arrival of the first train on July 1, 1882 the town had a population of 1,100 people. It had nearly fifty business houses. It had a newspaper, "The Cross Timbers", published by O. P. McLain. Where the bois d'arc, and past oaks had been cleared for a rail head a little more than a year before, the home trade alone aggregated approximately \$800,000.00 The railroad had accomplished a miracle. When, ten years later in 1892 the Chicago, Rock Island and Gulf R. R. company came through it realized a second upsurge in its economy. Bowie became and has been the largest town in the county.

Although the town was founded in 1882 it was not incorporated until October 29, 1883. Mr. D. C. Allen was the first mayor. Mr. Allen had come to Bowie on one of the first trains from Decatur and established a grocery store near where the present



Top Picture: This is the Cotton Parade held in Bowie in 1900. At the time of this parade, cotton was the big money crop in the county, and there were 54 gins operating in the county. In 1958 there are only two.

Bottom Picture: This livery stable was located in what is now downtown Bowie in 1895.

Carter & Whitecotton

YOUR FRIENDLY FOOD STORE

BOWIE, TEXAS

MILTON

TOMMY

CARTER

WHITECOTTON

COTTON'S CAFE

&

DINING ROOM

HARVE RATLIFF

BOWIE, TEXAS

post office is. Thomas Worley, father of Mrs. Rosa Lee Jimmerson, was one of the first councilmen. He operated the first drug store "at the end of Mason Street", where Griffin's Drug Store now stands. Mr. Worley was influential in providing the city with its first water works. Mr. Chris Boedecker's identity with Bowie dated almost from its inception. He served as mayor from 1891-1895 and accomplished many things. The water service was improved, the streets in order, the fire department had become organized. Mr. Boedecker's interest continued throughout his life time and at his death his request that his beloved fire truck be used as a hearse was granted. It was in the summer of 1893 that the country suffered a severe panic, and the government's gold reserve fell far below the danger point. Bowie was sorely hit. The city with Jim Burgess on the council arranged for the laying out of the streets and gave employment to many.

The merchandising and marketing carried on was more phenomenal because it was accomplished without benefit of banks or finance companies for almost ten years. Not until 1890 did it have a bank. T. C. Phillips received a charter to operate the First National Bank in March of that year. Prior to that Robert Gibson was said to have loaned money "at high interest" and Z. T. Lowrie would "at ten per cent." In 1892 Wade Atkins and stockholders organized the City National Bank in the building that was built in conjunction with the National Hotel. It existed until 1932. The First National Bank which was headed by T. Roy Coffield during the era of bank failures is still flourishing with his nephew, Charles Coffield as President. By the year 1920 other banks had been organized. The Security National was established by John B. Hunt in 1906. The Security State which bought the National Bank of Bowie in 1922, and became the Security National, also closed its doors in the early thirties. In 1920 there were four banks operating, the First State, First National, City National and Security National. They operated a clearing house among themselves. Today, only one remains, the First National Bank.

If there was a city father it was James Independence Gillespie Cowan. The new town site was his pasture and he divided it into lots and sold them. He was the first postmaster. He was a relative of both Sam Houston and the noted James G. Blaine. His biographer states "He had been reared to believe in the integrity of humanity and the honesty of men. Credit ruined him. Many men carried groceries out of his store who still owe for them, some of them walk in the streets of Bowie today in health and independence . . . (1906)." Mr. Cowan like many others was a victim of the panic of '93 and like the lumber dealers who "carried" many of their customers to build "pretentious houses", suffered financial loss. He played an important part in the organization of the town and controlling the lawlessness that existed in the boom town.

The presence of coal in the area was important to the railroad executives. A St. Louis syndicate leased a large tract of land near Brushy Mound, now owned by Lawrence Foster. Here a shaft was dug and a tower and elevator erected along the tracks. A mining town consisting of two stores, sa-

loons, a hotel and livery stable sprang up. A number of the "outlaws" moved out of Bowie to the new town where life was so wild it was aptly named "Tiger Town". The coal, so Mr. Foster says, was immature, contained too much moisture and the mining venture was abandoned. He uses some of the buildings on his ranch today. Dock Jackson who was born near there recalls tales told of the place and that he walked to school from Brushy Mound to Queen's Peak when he was seven in 1902.

The coming of the Chicago & Rock Island & Gulf R. R. caused the lawlessness along Smokey Row to be extended the length of Clay Street leading to that depot. Cheap hotels, saloons, gambling halls where keno prevailed, pool halls dotted the street. The harlots from the "bawdy houses" paraded the streets of Clay and Smokey. The good women of the town, though without suffrage, campaigned fiercely against the conditions that existed. To aid them in their efforts to abolish the sin and lawlessness they sent for the temperance advocate Carry Nation. Mrs. Walter Coffield and Mrs. J. F. Donald were leaders in this campaign. While no immediate results were evident their efforts were finally rewarded when in 1909 the saloons were voted out. Some saloon keepers continued to operate selling "Frosty" and continued to "bootleg" beer and whiskey. Among these were the Hargrove brothers. In defiance of the law they shot two Bowie officers John Adams and John Wales one night. A mob was quickly formed and the brothers fled to their home for safety with the mob close at their heels. Chris Boedecker prevented the mob from burning the house. The next morning Sheriff Doc Watson in the face of the vicious mob that demanded they be released and hanged, escorted the outlaws with Winchesters in their hands from the house and drove off in a spring wagon one on each side of him to the county jail at Montague. (The story goes that Doc wasn't very popular after that and served only the one term.)

Women played an important part in the economic development even at an early date. In 1883 two were hotel keepers, Miss Alice Coppuck, who was assistant postmistress and Miss Annie Croford, who was a clerk in her father's grocery store a few years later. By 1900 Mrs. Cook was post-mistress - and in the late twenties Mrs. Emma Green held that office. Miss Lura Moore and her mother established a floral business. Important in the history of the telephone business were Miss Helia Bowles and Mrs. Elizabeth Hudgens. In the city office Miss Hettie Lola Dobkins served as clerk for many years. Today Bowie has its first city secretary in the person of Miss Nancy Clark. (Miss Clark's great, grandfather was a physician at Queen's Peak).

Dr. Jessie Givens whose father came to Bowie in 1892 to practice medicine has continued her father's practice since 1910. Miss Ermytrude McNatt, great-granddaughter of Jarrell McDonald who has been an accountant and cashier since 1924 is now assistant Vice President of the bank. Miss Lizzie Mae Shoemaker has had a long career as an accountant both at the bank and at the Bowie Clinic. Mrs. Eva Giles is the school tax assessor and collector. Until last year when she retired Dr.



This is a street scene of Montague in 1911. This picture was made when the present court house was being constructed out of the picture at the right. Note the lumber in the foreground.

T. A. NORED

HOUSTON HUTCHENS



**Our hats are off
to Montague County . . .**

Whose fine present citizenship measures up to its hundred years of glorious history, fine traditions and wonderful accomplishments.

**NORED-HUTCHENS
COMMISSION CO.**

Fort Worth, Texas

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR
100 YEARS CELEBRATION
from

PAR-O-LENE CHEMICAL Co.

"Manufacturing Chemists Since 1934"
PAR-O-LENE PETROLEUM TREATING COMPOUNDS
Emulsion Breakers—Corrosion Inhibitors
Paraffin Solvents

We specialize in TREATING OIL—108 proven formulations — On location analysis made free of charge. Complete laboratory equipment for making analysis on Cut Oil, Emulsion, BS, etc., by competent Chemical Engineers.

TREATERS IN NORTH TEXAS

JOE HOOD
Rankin, Texas
Ph. MY-3-2555
HARVEY O'NEAL
Breckenridge, Texas
Ph. HI-9-4570
CHARLES E. KEITH
Breckenridge, Texas
Ph. HI-9-4677
VERNON REED
Duncan, Oklahoma
Ph. 4660
JOHN B. BOOK
Snyder, Texas
Ph. 3-9995

NORMAN SMITH
Andrews, Texas
Ph. LA-3-3805
CLYDE J. ROSS
Seminole, Oklahoma
Ph. 167
MARVIN L. HAMM, JR.
Wichita Falls, Texas
Ph. 692-1685
R. P. "Dick" MORRIS
Gainesville, Texas
Ph. HO-5-2421
HERMAN FOSTER
Wichita Falls, Texas
Ph. 692-0182

PHONES: Office 322-5827

If no answer — 692-0573, 692-1857 or 692-0449

PAR-O-LENE CHEMICAL CO.

P. O. Box 2197

Wichita Falls, Texas

Gladys Cox had been one of the leading dentists in the town for many years. Mrs. C. Y. Cosby, an artist, paints large murals of the river Jordan for baptistries in churches and ships them to all parts of the world. Mrs. Earl Samson manages the affairs of the Bowie Chamber of Commerce.

The legal profession has always been an important one in Bowie. Among them were such capable jurists as Benson & Benson, and Donald Brothers who also contributed greatly as stock growers and oil operators. One pioneer family, the Renne Allreds produced five barristers one of them James V. Allred, governor of Texas in 1934. One Allred lawyer, Renne, still is active in the profession in Bowie. Women again have played an important part as able assistants to some of these jurists. Mrs. Lanelle Wheeler, assistant to Donald Brothers since 1920 and Miss Elizabeth Bellah who is an attorney associated with Benson Brothers since 1925.

Perhaps the first and most important industry in Bowie in 1883 was the making of bricks. Mr. John Young on the Belcherville road operated a brick kiln and was also a contractor. For many years he made the bricks that were used in the buildings in Bowie. In 1886 he made the bricks and built the Foster building, long occupied by S. Daube and Co., and now the location of Russell's Department Store. Most of the other early buildings were made of local brick. Robert Cady, now deceased, related once that the bricks used in the building Morrow's Coffee Shop occupies were the first imported bricks he had ever seen. However, the bricks which were used in paving the streets in 1912 were imported. Another source of material for these early day builders was a rock quarry on Hutchison street. B. R. Giles' father who came in 1892 used this rock or sand stone in erecting the general mercantile store building which still stands at the corner of Wise and Smythe streets.

John Groves established the first ice plant. Ice was as important in that day as air-conditioning is today. Robert Meyer, late of Switzerland, came to aid Mrs. Locard in operating her hotel after her husband, the Major, died. He also sold ice to the retail trade from a wholesale beer house across the street. He later owned and operated the famous Bob's Hotel on that same location. His daughter, Clara, (Mrs. Paul Donald), donated Meyer Park to the city of Bowie in memory of her mother, Mrs. Suzette Meyer. Mrs. Jessie (Riley) Boone recalls being sent after ten cent's worth of ice which was a small block tied with a string which she, as a small child was able to carry home. Tan Turner recalls that his father, A. C. Turner, was engaged in the ice business after moving from his ranch to Bowie in 1888 following a severe drought. Mr. Turner had ice shipped from Wisconsin and sold it for 75c per hundred. The many saloons made the ice business a lucrative one.

Numerous industries sprang up as the town grew. For many years sixteen passenger trains stopped daily. Young boys made their spending money by selling fried chicken and biscuits to the passengers on the trains. Even at night the youngsters would meet the trains and with market baskets full of fried chicken and biscuits would hawk their wares to the hungry passengers. Some of the

"boys" were: John White, Shorty Ryan, John Black, M. Johnson, Virgil Brown, Thurman Anderson, Percy Stallings and many others. The business was so lucrative that one of their members Amon G. Carter, now deceased, went into the business wholesale. Young Amon's father was a blacksmith and demanded that Amon assist him at the bellows in his shop. Unable to sell the chicken and bread at all times, Amon arranged to have the chicken fried and engaged other boys to sell it for him on a percentage basis. Although Mr. Carter left Bowie before he had accumulated any of his great wealth he made many contributions to Bowie during his life time and at his death bequeathed in memory of his "Chicken and Bread" associates the sum of \$25,000.00 to the town.

Cotton gins, cotton compresses and a cotton oil mill became part of the industry. Coffield Brothers, Whit and Walter, established a flour mill. The abundance of fruit and vegetables warranted a processing plant. George Slaughter operated a soda pop bottling works in the rear of his drug store and delivered to merchants in a horse drawn buggy.

Bowie, though never an industrial town had its whistle to alert those who work. At eight, at twelve, at one and at five the monument whistle blows. The monument works in one of the oldest industries. It was established by Jim Park from Salona in the nineties, purchased from him by Claude Henderson and now managed by his son, James Henderson. He and his brother, Le Grande, have expanded the business and now have plants at Wichita Falls and Abilene.

Perhaps the most lasting and best known industry that Bowie has had is the M. Johnson poultry ranch. Established in 1904 by M. Johnson, a native of Montague County, on a town lot with five hens, one rooster, and a dry goods box for housing it has developed to an industry of mammoth proportions. The hatchery has a capacity for 250,000 eggs, and has a production for more than a million chicks each season. It is known among poultry growers internationally and is reputed to be one of the best in the world.

The economic life of Bowie remained tied to agriculture. The cattle that were scattered over every hillside, valley and plain during Jarrell McDonald's occupancy of the area represented that much gold to the owners. Though the problem of driving the cattle to market at Kansas was great the gold the drivers had to bring back to the owners became a burden.

For forty years King Cotton reigned. The open range was fenced. The merchants welcomed the farmers literally with "open arms" as they arrived with their wagons of cotton to be sold. The merchants employed men whose one job was to buy the cotton. Cotton buyers came from the east and abroad to buy the cotton from the merchants. Great loading platforms and ware houses were built alongside the tracks. Wagon yards were established for the farmer to "bed down" over night. Livery stables were numerous. The drummers came by train, then rented "rigs" to drive to the adjacent towns to sell merchants. The hotel business flourished. Bob's Hotel owned and operated by the parents of Mrs. Clara Donald, became one of



Top Picture: One of the trail outfits on the Chisholm Trail. Men who made their living driving herds up the Chisholm Trail found that the most profitable herd was 10,000 cattle, ten cowboys, one wagon boss, a horse wrangler, trail boss and forty horses.

Bottom Picture: Bob's Hotel was the outstanding hotel in this area. Traveling men all stopped here. The carriages in the picture met all trains to take passengers to the hotel.

Billy F. Neeld
Men's Store, Inc.

BOWIE TEXAS

Engineering **Carrier** Service

GARRETT and COMPANY

AIR CONDITIONING

Bowie R. V. Garrett Texas

CONGRATULATIONS
MONTAGUE COUNTY

From

Gulf Oil Corporation

Staley Oil Company

Petroleum Products

WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

the most famous in north Texas. Not only did Mr. and Mrs. "Bob" Meyer contribute to the town in an economic way but also in a civic way. Meyer Park was donated to the city by Mrs. Meyer in memory of their son Robert who was a casualty of World War I. The greatest building boom Bowie ever had took place during this era. Fine homes were built. The cotton season was culminated annually with a Cotton Carnival.

The cream separator was invented in 1890. When George Hoeldtke came with one in 1905 and established the first creamery in the area it played an important part in the economy of Bowie and the entire area. Farmers bought the hand separator, sold the cream, and butter was made in large quantities. Mr. Hoeldtke also owned a large dairy herd and sold milk from door to door for the first time in Bowie. Without containers, he sold milk direct from can to pitcher of his wagon. Since his coming the dairy business has contributed much to Bowie and its trade area.

The shipping of fruit and vegetables was for many years "big business". T. P. Evans, with his sons, Prentice and Paul, operated large warehouses for loading and packing fruit.

The death knell of most of the industries was sounded with the decline of the cotton and fruit culture. Numerous reasons are given for this decline. Monoculture, plant diseases and insects, variability of seasons are all given as the principal factors. The decline had a marked effect on the growth of the town.

The town remained a "trade town". Many of the established merchants did remain and continued by skillful merchandising to attract business from a large trade area. Four generations of the Heard family have been in business beginning with Crawford Brothers in 1882. Members of the Garlington family have been in business for many years. D. C. Allen came in 1882 and his grandson together with his wife, whose grandfather, I. C. Giles, came in 1892, are still in business. D. H. Greeson was in business long before his grandson Bill Henson, or his granddaughter's husband, Jake Dorsey were born. Thomas Ayres' great-grandmother Ayres came many years ago and inspired Jim Ayres to be a merchant. Members of the Young family have been active in business or industry for over three fourths of a century. Women in business as Mrs. Glenna Thompson, Mrs. Corabelle Sanders, Mrs. Sara Sietz, Mrs. Allene Taliaferro and others can trace their lineage to early day business people. Though surnames may have changed the descendants of many of the early day merchants are still here. Such names as Morgan, Cunningham, Jones, Lancaster, Black, Barber, Overstreet, Widlake, Clark, Evans, have been on business lists for many years.

Although "First Monday" was originally "Horse Trader's Day" in Bowie the second Monday of the month became "Trades Day" in 1890. Circulars were mailed that year to people in the trade area inviting them to Bowie to bring and trade anything of value they might wish to dispose of. It was a howling success literally and figuratively. The squealing pigs, bawling calves, braying mules, squawking geese and howling hound dogs poured into town. From then on Bowie's "Second Monday

Trade's Day" has been an event in Bowie. Whole families came by wagon great distances. Sometimes the journey was so long it was necessary to reach Bowie on Sunday night and put up at the wagon yards over night. Modern transportation has changed the scene of barter. While some live stock is still brought for exchange or sale, and some produce, wearing apparel, and other odds and sundries, Trades Day has "gone to the dogs." There is a legend that many years ago a breed of fine hunting fox hounds was brought to a fine ranch on the Jack County line by an eastern blue blood. Consequently good dogs (hounds) are constantly being sought. Because of the excellent hunting for quail, plover and dove in the early days many sportsmen brought their fine dogs to Bowie and left them. Others brought them to be trained. From English born "Banty" Smith, Bowie's first dog trainer whose father, Captain Smith, was here before the railroad came, to Shorty Ryan and Leonard Clark who are still training dogs, dogs have been an attraction. For many years field meets were held in Bowie every fall and sportsmen from far and near were attracted to it.

To further attract trade the early merchants supported a band. Mrs. A. J. Allen recalls that her husband succeeded a Mr. Soule as band director in 1895. The band was made up of talented business men and boys and were called upon to play for all important functions. The band stood for many years at the intersection of Smythe, Tarrant and Walnut Streets and later moved on to the property where Bob's Hotel had stood, the land being donated by Mrs. Meyer, and band concerts were given.

Bowie had its Opera House and sponsored many a stock company performance. It was superseded by the moving picture theater by 1909. Mrs. Lois Eastin recalls that her father bought the theater from Mage Stewart in 1911. She described how Mage would recite the drama of the silent movies, as the plot unfolded. When her father bought the theater he improved it and she became the pianist that supplied the appropriate music for the pictures. Her father, George Berry, also built the forerunner of today's drive-in theater. He built the Airdome Theater which occupied the center of the block adjacent to the band stand. It was an outdoor theater with a balcony, a stage, and an orchestra pit. It attracted many people on hot summer nights and brought many people to town.

As agriculture and its allied industries faded from the economic scene at the turn of this century, oil came to the rescue of the town. The oil strike in the Ranger field necessitated the establishing of pump stations to push the oil to the distant refineries. As the many cattle trails converged as they had neared the Red river so did the long winding miles of iron pipe that were laid underground to transport the oil. The Sinclair company came and constructed the pump station which later became Stanolind and now Service Pipe Line. The Prairie Oil Company built the station which now is Sinclair east of the town site. The Magnolia on the Red River and the Gulf Station on the Newport road were also erected. The Gulf was the carrier of oil from the newly discovered Burkburnett field to the refinery at Fort Worth. The companies



Top Picture: Nocona's first graduating class, May 1, 1896. l.r. Clifton, B. B. Barefoot, Dennis, A. S. Coltharp, J. D. Carmichael, Bill Dyer, Bell Womack, Maggie Weiss, Erma Davis, Mary Shultz.

Bottom Picture: Faculty Nocona School 1895-96, which was the first year in the new school building. l.r. K. B. Otis, Swift and Savage. Standing: Miss Cornelia Coltharp, Miss Hattie Darnell, Miss Allie Mountcastle, Miss Lulu Harwell, Pearson, and Lu Brown.



Popular *Dry Goods Company*

MR. and MRS. J. D. McELHANNON, Sr.
Owners

We are exclusively dealers for John C. Roberts,
Grace Walker, Vitality, Kingsway and Red Goose
Shoes



sent large crews of men to dig and lay the pipe and to erect and man the stations. The companies also provided employment for many local men and the trades people continued to prosper.

Under the administration of J. W. Chancellor as mayor in the twenties, the city built its own power plant. The city auditorium was built. At that same time Dr. W. W. Wright with the aid of stock holders established a badly needed hospital. In this he was assisted by Dr. J. T. Lawson and Dr. T. H. Clark. Prior to this Dr. Wright had operated a sanitorium at his residence.

The great bulk of freight and express had grown until Charle Jackson built a large freight building now occupied by the Continental Bus Company. The express which Rex Calloway handled for forty-one years was operated by various companies. Wells-Fargo had bought out the original Adams express in an early day, and the American Express succeeded them. Mrs. Metta Calloway acted as agent many times and assisted in the office as clerk for thirty-six years.

As highways were black-topped busses started operating through Bowie and much of the railroad traffic was reduced. The establishment of a bus station became necessary. Wise Street became dotted with gasoline filling stations, and the first motel, Barr Courts was built.

Like all communities the economic boost that Bowie area received during the alphabetical thirties was Federal aid. Not only was the economy of Bowie shattered during much of this period but nature also struck with a prolonged drought. Bowie would have suffered greatly had it not been for the Federal and State aid it received. The C. C. C. camp was built and three hundred boys came to Bowie in connection with the soil conservation program. The W. P. A. poured hundreds of thousands of dollars into the area with the restoration of Pelham Park and the building of the Bowie lake of 2,000 acre feet which became its main source of water supply. The lake was 440 feet wide and 2 miles long. The sewing center was established and many women found employment there. Many articles were made including mattresses. The N.R.A. was put into effect and labor gained by receiving the same pay for shorter hours. The average work day of twelve hours was reduced to eight.

Seismograph crews followed the lease brokers and then almost simultaneously with the exodus of men and women into the armed services and defense plants as World War II gripped the nation, the production of oil in the Bowie area began. By 1943 some 62 drilling rigs were active. New business and industries allied to the oil industry moved in. The Continental Oil Company established district headquarters on the north side of the town while numerous well service companies dotted the path of the new east-west highway leading to the Hildreth pool. Walsh Construction Company, now owned by Mark High and known as Wichita Construction Company locatee on this same highway.

The "gold" of the land now was black and flowing below the surface where the cotton once flourished. Grass started growing on the uncultivated land and the unwanted farms were gradually bought or leased by a few stock men. Most ac-

tive in this enterprise is Paul Donald, for many years a prominent lawyer, who owns three such ranches in Montague County. In restoring the soil to its original usefulness Mr. Donald has spent much money and time in soil conservation.

At last in the last decade the physical features of the town began to change. A native son, Roy Sanders, home from war and college showed his faith in his home town by returning to it. By applying his engineering skill and architectural knowledge he has a building program including new homes as well as business buildings of modern design. The bank building was remodeled. A dress factory financed local stockholders and leased to a manufacturer was one of his first buildings. A new National Guard Armory followed and where the old Armory once stood a new shopping center changed the landscape of the down town area. Adjacent to it a new building housing the A. & P. store was built by Elton Hill. Contractors such as Bert Cassle, Frank Green, C. O. Stom and R. V. Garrett have cooperated in the building program. Hundreds of new homes line new streets or the extension of old ones. New subdivisions such as the Trail, Bishop Acres, Robinson Hills, join the town. Now old landmarks such as the Turner residence, the Robicheaux Apartments, are being razed to make way for new office buildings. The telephone company occupies a modern building. When Roy was asked what he and his inimitable partner Bob Posey based their optimism on, the answer was "increased population."

The population of Bowie which began with 1,100 in 1883 rose and fell. It dropped to a new low in 1930 after a census of over 5,000 in the early part of the century. In 1950 it was again 5,000. On the basis of meter installations it is estimated the population now in 1958 is over 6,000. The high birth rate since the end of the war is indicative of the economic needs of tomorrow. Bowie has all the ground work laid for unlimited expansion. It has a network of highways, two railroads, and facilities for an airport. It now has a tremendous water supply provided by Amon G. Carter Lake. The lake which cost the city over \$855,000 is financed by revenue bonds. Consequently low taxes, low water rates, as well as low utility rates prevail. The lake provides excellent opportunities for fishing and water sports. The schools in the town offer the finest opportunity for youth to learn. To give them an opportunity to remain and make a living here is the greatest need.

This review of one hundred years of Bowie's existence is written in the hope that viewing the past will serve as an incentive for progress; that it might inspire better citizenship in the future; that it might help young people to take responsible roles in the community and appreciate and value the ideals on which it was built. It is written as a tribute not to those who left and made a great name for themselves but to the fine people who stayed and made a great town.

Acknowledgement

Source material used in this narrative includes the following: Richard C. Overton, "Gulf to Rockies"; B. B. Pad-dock, "History, North and West Texas"; Mrs. W. R. Potter, "History of Montague County, Texas"; Scribner's Monthly, (July, 1873) "The New Route to the Gulf"; Lewis Nordyke, "Cattle Empire".



Top Picture: Students of Saint Jo School 1890



Bottom Picture: First graduation class of Saint Jo School, 1900. The graduates are standing. They are: Arthur Lee, Watson Williams, Stella Frie (Williams), Lillian Puryear (Rabb), Teacher John T. Roberts.

O. K. WILLIAMS

B. L. WILLIAMS

WILLIAMS DRILLING COMPANY

DRILLING CONTRACTORS

SAINT JO, TEXAS

Christianity Led the Way From Beginning

Busy pioneers making homes for themselves in a new country didn't forget their religion, worship services were held every Sunday possible. At first in homes and later in churches that they constructed, their belief in God was important. Many pioneers had daily worship in the evening, and many read a chapter or so from the Bible before each meal. Many of them drove long distance in wagons or rode horseback to attend church services.

The family Bible was important to all pioneers as it helped them with their daily living and it was the record of the family history. All births and deaths were recorded in the family Bible.

Methodist Church, Forestburg

Early services were held under huge oak trees, in homes and the upper floor of the old school. There was always fear of an Indian attack during the services and the pioneers always had their rifles near for protection.

About the turn of the century there was a great need for a church, but the shortage of finances made such a project almost impossible. A group of ambitious folks started out on the difficult task and among those were Mrs. Kate Perryman Caddell, W. H. (Billy) Wilson made a sizable contribution to get the fund started. In a short time money had been raised and material for the church was selected. George Littell worked hard on the project hauling rock, and digging the foundation. John Haynie and Park Steadham hauled lumber from Gainesville by wagon. Sewell Stover was the carpenter. The church was completed in 1901, and Mrs. Wilson's was the first funeral held, February 4, 1902. The first couple married was George Tucker and Eula Walker, December 24, 1902.

Early ministers were J. W. Tincher, R. J. Smith, R. E. Porter, D. F. Fuller, George Sexton of Gainesville was the presiding elder. The church still stands as a memorial to those early settlers of Montague county.

Assembly of God Church, Saint Jo

Rev. John Nothalf started the church in 1936 in an old garage building he rented for \$5.00 per month. He preached his first sermon September 23, 1936.

There were 25 charter members and at the present time seven remain as members of the church. The following have been ministers of the church. Rev. John L. Nothalf, J. H. Taylor, E. L. Medley, W. D. Witt, C. F. Bone, L. L. Rich, W. D. Taylor. J. H. Taylor was recalled and is the present minister.

First Assembly of God Church, Nocona

The First Assembly of God Church was organized April 1, 1941, with a small group of energetic and enthusiastic people who knew that they could build their own church if they worked hard enough.

Charter members were R. L. Anderson, Mary Cunningham, Annie Taylor, Irene Pierce, Joe LeBeau, R. L. Russell, Killie Hewitt, and L. C. Addington. This group with the help of others in the congregation started immediately constructing a church.

John Nothalf, an oil field worker before answering the call to preach was the first pastor. His hard work proved fruitful for the church grew and in 1950 the church built their Sunday School annex. They now have 150 members enrolled.

Pastors besides Nothalf have been, R. E. Maxwell, M. Ottwell, Paul Everett, and N. W. Wertko, the present pastor.

Montague Baptist Church, Montague

This church was organized in 1875, and the first church was a large one room frame house and was used until the present church was built in 1951.

The new church includes a auditorium, baptistery, and eight class rooms for Sunday school.

In 1953 a new three bedroom parsonage was constructed. The present pastor is Donald A. Wood.

West Side Church of Christ, Nocona

Early in 1920 a small group of men and women started holding weekly service in an upstairs room on Clay street. After a short time the group decided to construct their own building. They built the present church, and during the first year Brother Loyd Hanks was the minister.

Among the charter members were J. J. Wood, C. W. Giles, A. H. Howell, C. P. Hopkins, J. A. Garrison, B. F. Nelson and T. M. Baker.

Church of Christ, Forestburg

The first meetings of the Church of Christ was held under a huge liveoak tree, now located near the site of the post office.

The first building was built in 1882 by W. W. Givens, Cam Royal, Tom Dolphit, and Berry White. Ike Skinner was the first to join the church after it was built.

Because of difficulty in getting to the church when it rained in 1920 the church was moved to the present location, however the old building has been replaced with a modern church.

Ringgold Baptist Church

Was organized May 2, 1893 in the Cumberland Presbyterian church. Rev. T. P. Miller led the organization, with Jim Barnett as clerk. There were 25 charter members, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Ferrus, Mrs. J. B. Semans, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Hand, Mr. and Mrs. Ewell, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Salmans, S. D. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Haley, Mrs. Andy Robinson, Mrs. Steward, Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Letta Hamilton, Mrs. Brisco, Mrs. Bell Stevens, and Miss Nannie Rothwell.

Lots were donated by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Harris, the first church was destroyed by fire and many of the records lost, the present church was built in 1897 and remodeled in 1905 and again in 1957.

Rev. Arthur Jones and Rev. Dunn were ordained from this church. Dr. B. H. Carrol, Dr. H. E. Dana, Rev. R. E. Bell, Missionaries from China, Miss Blanche Groves, Miss Alma Jackson and Miss Helen Bagby from Brazil have been distinguished visitors.

Deacons have been, F. Scott, John Puckett, R. Wallace, Jim Ferris, R. K. Hall, George Gray, H. F. Wheat, W. G. Hawkins Sr., Paul Yeager, Frank Collier, Lloyd Boudin, Frank Leeper, Edgar Jones, Leonard Campbell, W. G. Hawkins, Paul Yeager, and Frank Collier. Present Pastor is Grady Hicks.

Saint Jo Missionary Baptist Church

Was organized, October 4, 1949 in the home of Rev. and Mrs. R. L. Cook. Their church was completed in March 1950. The church was organized by J. H. Townley of Athens, who was state missionary. In August 1950, R. L. Cook was elected pastor, the church now has 65 members. Ernest O'Neal is song director and Mrs. O'Neal is pianist. Gus Livingston is Sunday School superintendent. The church is affiliated with the Baptist missionary association of Texas, and with the North American Baptist Association.



Top Picture: Queen's Peak, important through centuries as an Indian signal post, as a stage stop and as the original home of settlers who later migrated to Bowie now stands a deserted and silent sentinel.

Bottom Picture: Second Monday has been Bowie's big trades day for over fifty years. Still one of the leading trading spots in the county, people bring everything they would like to trade to Bowie on Second Monday.

MORROW'S COFFEE SHOP

— Featuring —
"FOOD AT ITS FINEST"

CHICKEN — STEAKS — SEAFOOD
DELIGHTFUL ATMOSPHERE
TELEVISION — REFRIGERATED AIR

Established in 1917
Bowie, Texas
Mrs. Harriet V. Morrow

Goodwin's Beauty Salon

Earl Goodwin — Mabel Goodwin, Owners
Maurine Nail — Ruby West, Operators

Wise at Smythe Streets

Phone TRemont 2-2461 Bowie, Texas

Methodist Church, Bonita

Bonita once a thriving town in Montague county had 20 stores two banks and was the heart of business in a thriving farming community. The big money crop was cotton.

After several years the land started wearing out and raising cotton was no longer profitable and people started moving from the farms. The community started getting smaller, and today only one store remains in Bonita.

With the decline in population, churches felt the loss as did everything else. Bonita church was again put on a circuit with Spanish Fort, by 1953 they were having one service a month. The building was in a bad state of repair, something had to be done fast.

Remembering the pioneer spirit of yesteryear, the membership was composed of 18 members, 12 active.

May 1, 1953, the church reorganized and elected Claude Ayres, J. E. Langford and J. L. Henry as trustees. Stewarts elected were: J. H. Ayres, Ridley Buck, J. P. Pierson, and Mrs. J. L. Henry. This group elected Bruce Porter, Sunday school superintendent; adult superintendent, Paul Pierson; Membership, Mrs. Bruce Porter; Education, Mrs. J. E. Langford, Missions, Mrs. Claude Ayres.

This group with the help of friends from other churches and other towns went to building, and in a short time had their church repaired, and a credit to any community. Rev. George Thompson was the pastor. The church is still very active, as we go into our centennial year celebration.

Saint Jo Methodist Church

Records indicate that this church started in 1879 and that the first pastor was J. O. Shanks, and the presiding elder was L. H. Lively. The only charter member still living is Mrs. J. L. Morgan.

There have been several Methodist Churches, the present one was built in 1919, and was remodeled in 1950, with a 40 foot annex being added to four Sunday School rooms. The present pastor is Jerry Deleney.

Southside Baptist Church, Bowie

Started from a tent revival in July 1948, under the direction of the First Baptist Church of Bowie. Missionary L. R. Jones preached the revival.

On October 8, 1950, the church was organized with the following charter members; Mrs. Pearl Nickols, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Woody, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Stewart, Mrs. Helen Rainey, Mrs. Bertha Hargrove, Jacquelyn Hargrove, Jo An Hargrove Reed, Pauline Nickols, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Brumfield, Don Brumfield, Mrs. A. B. Beasley, Billy Ray Beasley, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Jordon, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Baker, Mrs. T. O. Garlington, Mark Young, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Beaver, Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Carter, Rev. and Mrs. A. D. Seage, Ruth Woody, Mary Lou Brumfield, Shirley Woody, J. Allen Woody, Mrs. Ben Hill, Bennie Hill, Jerry Hill, Mrs. G. W. Butler, Miss Lizzie Parson, Mrs. Bob Weeks, Cecilia Jean Ratliff, Andy Booker, Mrs. John Turnbow, O. B. Turnbow, Mrs. Joe Bacher, Mrs. P. R. Gates, Mrs. Ruth Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Arvel Wilson, Gerald Ingram, Mrs. Dale Ratliff.

Rev. A. D. Seage was the first pastor and the membership increased from 48 charter members to 116. Dr. Lloyd Garrison followed and the membership increased to 233 members. A new parsonage was built, a new auditorium, and Sunday School rooms improved. Ray Hartline is now pastor.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Nocona

Was organized in May 1948, by Reverend John H. Morse, who became its first pastor. He was succeeded by Father John E. Mitchell and subsequently by Father Joseph Kopczewski the present pastor.

M. C. Lerner, Henry Fenoglio and C. S. McCall

composed the organizational committee. There 20 families in the parish and Sunday school is under the direction of the Benedictine nuns of Muenster, with an average attendance of 42 children, which included Montague parish.

President of the altar society is Mrs. Jeff Henderson, meetings are held monthly with the study club under the direction of Father Joseph.

The church was dedicated May 30, 1948, by the late Most Reverend Bishop Lynch of Dallas, assisted by a number of the clergy from surrounding towns.

Prairie Mound Baptist Church

Was organized in 1890, and has had a very colorful history through the years. The Methodists of the community under the leadership of W. T. Ayers, as pastor worshipped in a small building near what was then Alcorn store. The first members were Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Paine, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Gordon, Joseph Harmon, Mr. and Mrs. James K. Paine, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Hodges, Mrs. Mary Cunningham, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Keck, and Mrs. Mattie Wilton.

In a short time the Baptist joined with the Methodists, and a larger church was built. Some of the early Baptists were Mr. and Mrs. Will Alcorn, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Bonds, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Bonds.

After the consolidation of small schools into Prairie Valley, the church was moved to the present site, but the name retained. The land was leased from Mr. and Mrs. Harry Paine for 99 years or as long as it is used for a church.

The Grayson Baptist church united. The Grayson church had been organized in 1915 with 12 charter members. Mrs. Eva Heaton is still an active member. Some of the pastors are Simpson Bowerman, B. F. Dearmore, Charley Painter, Albert McClellan, (a native of Bowie) Henry Pennington.

The present pastor is Bud Townsend, a home town boy and direct descendant of J. W. Keck.

Church of the Nazarene, Nocona

Was organized on September 5, 1943, first located in a store building. Charter members Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Watkins, are still active, and he was the first Sunday School superintendent.

Officers are; Stewarts, Herndon Hardin, Mrs. Lucille Richardson, Mrs. Texanna McGuint; Trustees, Hollis B. Franklin, G. U. Gideon, J. W. Watkins; Church Treasurer, Mrs. Mary Gideon; President Young people's society, S. G. Richardson, Foreign mission, president, Ida Wright.

Pastors have been; Harold C. Davis, John Eppler, J. H. Patterson, Mrs. Mary Louis Lewis, Mrs. Lera Roedler, John R. Ferguson, Roy L. Bickford, Wendell A. Russell, W. R. Aldridge, L. Dale Horton. The church moved to its present location in 1946, and the parsonage was built in 1954.

Montague Church of Christ

For a number of years met in the district court room. Was organized December 26, 1922, the elders were L. C. Oldham, B. B. Sledge, J. W. Wallace, R. W. Grimsley. The site for the present church was purchased from J. W. Alcorn. Now have church two Sundays a month with Rev. John Raymond from Saint Jo, and Rev. Paul Price, from Wichita Falls, serving.

Central Christian Church, Nocona

Was organized in 1888 under the leadership of M. F. Smith who moved to Nocona from Pilot Point. Charter members were; M. F. Smith, S. E. Howell, D. M. DeSpain, G. P. Pribble, J. M. Grayson, W. S. Thurston, Mrs. C. C. Cooper, Mrs. S. M. Davis. The elders were M. F. Smith, W. S. Thurston, and D. M. DeSpain. Other early elders were J. M. Grayson, G. P. Pribble, W. T. Russell. Early deacons were; S. E. Howell, Tom Perkins, C. C. Cooper.

The church was built in 1894. Pastors have been; M. F. Smith, J. M. Morton, A. J. Bush, F. Jones, F. D.

W. H. Wilson, saddle harness and buggy shop and his helper, a chinese. This shop was located on the same site where the F & M Bank is now located. Mr. Wilson moved his business to Nocona from Belcherville. He made saddles until 1917.



Bottom Picture: This is the northeast corner of Clay street in Nocona at the turn of the century. Popular Dry Goods store is now located on this corner.

RICE
Radio & Television Service

Phone 446

Nocona, Texas

Phone 398

INSURED

J. D. FRANKLIN

DIRT and WELDING CONTRACTOR

Anywhere — Any Time

Nocona, Texas

Myers Equipment Co., Inc.

OIL FIELD & PIPE EQUIPMENT

Nocona, Texas

DON C. PETERSON

INSURANCE

Nocona

Texas

Horton, R. Flekner, O. W. Davis, Thomas C. Tripp, F. W. Strong, J. H. Henderson, W. S. Humphreys, Nathaniel Jacks, R. S. Norman, J. P. Gilmore, G. W. Davis, M. Wheatley, C. E. Cogswell, W. H. Griswold, Joe Frederick, W. J. Hall, Pat Adams, H. L. Ray, W. Harrison, C. B. Peck, Weems Dyke, H. F. Davis, Ned Romine, Donald E. White.

First Presbyterian Church, Nocona

Was organized in Scott Bros. funeral chapel, March 19, 1953, by the Presbytery of Dallas with 32 members charter members. A Manse was completed in November 1954, and services were held there until the church was opened May 5, 1957.

Elders are; Joe Benton, W. L. Scott, W. F. Lipscomb, Joe Wise and Walter Johnson. Deacons, B. M. Zeigler, Robert R. Smith, Lester Long, Paul Brand Vernon Jagers, R. W. Brown, L. M. Moore.

Rev. Edgar Gharis was the first pastor. Lannie Parnell was called in September 1955.

First Baptist Church, Bowie

Was organized December 24, 1882, there were 14 charter members and Rev. H. M. Burroughs was pastor. First services were held on the ground floor of the school house. The top floor was the masonic lodge.

In 1888 the church bought the old school, it was destroyed by fire in 1905. In 1909 they built a new church, this too was destroyed by fire February 7, 1943.

In October 1957, the church celebrated its diamond anniversary. The present church was built in 1943.

Mrs. W. R. Potter and her daughter Vivian Coffield have written a book on the history of the church. Rev. D. L. Payne is the pastor.

First Baptist Church, Nocona

Was organized August 22, 1889, charter members were; A. S. Spring, Dora Spring, Mamie Cato, W. O. Smothson, Mary J. Smithson, J. S. Morris, Mrs. J. E. Morris, Mrs. M. A. Earl, J. L. Pool, Mrs. S. V. Pool, the first pastor was S. E. West, who came to Nocona, September 15, 1889.

The first building was erected in 1896, and was torn down March 1927. The new building was built on the site, and a new educational building was dedicated on May 2, 1948. The first Sunday school was organized June 9, 1895. Pastors have been, S. E. West, J. B. Sellman, Joseph Thedford, J. T. Nicholson, J. T. Burnett, O. J. B. Coltharp, W. R. Chandler, J. J. Baird, T. F. Medlin, W. H. Neely, W. H. Hays, W. C. Garrett, W. H. McKenzie, A. Jeff Davis, J. R. Cavness, F. A. Whitely, A. J. Harris, Paul Thompson, W. P. Crow, Lem Hodge, M. A. Treatwell, S. F. Ross, J. A. Russell, E. L. Moody, L. E. Rambo, Frank W. Sutton, R. W. Riley, Loyd Lester, Gaston Green, George Park. Deacons, Glen Chambers, Norman McDaniel, C. O. Glenn, Weldon Cowan, Olen Bates, Gerald Russell, Earl Neighbors, J. B. Doyle, Monroe Reed, J. C. Barr. Joe B. Mustin is music director; Secretary, Mrs. Olen Bates; Nursery, Mrs. J. D. York; Financial secretary, E. J. Johnson; W.M.U. president, Mrs. George C. Park; Brotherhood president, Earl Neighbors; Organist, Mrs. E. J. Johnson; Pianist, Mrs. J. C. Barr.

Presbyterian Church, Saint Jo

Was first an outpost mission starting in 1872. Rev. James Anderson, came to Saint Jo in 1876 and became its pastor and maintained relations with the church for 40 years.

Early pioneers connected with the church was, the Bellahs, Browders, Bowers, Crumps, Fields, Hern-dons, Howells, Hughes, Parsons, Pedigos, Pettis Rogers and Scotts. The late Smith C. Pedigo, who died in 1957 had been a member since 1894, and had served as elder for 60 years. He was moderator to Fort Worth Presbytery three times and delegate to the General Assembly of Presbyterian churches.

Elders are, H. D. Field Jr., J. H. Field, D. H. Mitchell, Roy Lusk, and Clyde Yetter. In 1945 women were elected as deaconesses, they are, Mesdames, William Crump, W. E. Meador, S. T. Meador, Roy Lusk, and V. W. Redman,

1149160

First Methodist Church, Nocona

In 1880 when Mrs. J. A. Fooshee moved to Montague county, they found Methodist families living at Eagle Point then a town of 60 people.

The early Methodist church was made up of people from small towns, such as Burlington, (now Spanish Fort), Red River Station, Eagle Point, Montague and others. They came by wagon and horseback as this was the only place in the county where they held regular services.

Circuit riders came from Gainesville, usually arriving on Friday held service on Saturday and Sunday.

Rev. W. F. Ayres organized the church in 1889 with nine charter members, they were Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Fooshee, Solon Loving. Mrs. Fooshee is the only charter member still active. She was selected as Mother-of-the-year in 1957.

L. N. Weeks, father of Mrs. Mary McCall, was pastor when construction was started on a modern church, replacing the original one.

Loren Stouder has been a member of the church choir for 50 years, and a member of the official board 47 years, and is still active. He was S. S. Superintendent 15 years, preceding him was Mr. Barlow, Bill Leonard, and Earl Justin. Contractors to construct the church in 1912 was Mr. Barry and John Buckley, Barry is the father of Mrs. Bess Berry now choir director. Mrs. Bess Addington was the first organist.

Pastors have been; W. W. Horner, W. F. Ayres, H. C. Rogers, E. C. McVey, L. A. Hanson G. F. Boyd, J. M. Nichols, O. C. Fontain, Frank Moore, J. P. Lowery, W. T. Harris, S. P. Ulrich, T. N. Weeks, N. R. Stone, E. B. Wheeler, Minor Mounds, R. C. Hicks, W. R. McCarter, S. M. Williams, Dr. Dickinson, L. C. Beasley, O. P. Kiker, J. P. Luton, C. W. Thomas, C. L. Bowen, J. F. Blackburn, M. C. Smith, W. R. Zimmerman, Dr. Bob Evans, W. D. Craig.

Church of the Brethren, Nocona

Was organized April 6, 1889 with 21 charter members including Abraham Molsbee, Sue Molsbee, David Molsbee, Samuel Molsbee, Nannie Molsbee, Henry Brubaker, A. Brubaker, Abbie Brubaker, Mollie Brubaker, Dora Brubaker, Minnie Brubaker, Henry Troxel, E. C. Neal, Sue Neal, Amy Neal, Andrew C. Gillenwaters, Racheal Gillenwaters, John Troxel, Nancie Troxel, Daniel Troxel and Alice Troxel.

These met at the house of Henry Brubaker three miles north of Nocona, known as Molsbee Chapel.

A Sunday School was organized on May 30, 1891. The group met in the homes of Henry Brubaker and Abraham Molsbee and at various school houses around the community. The first church building was erected in 1908. Twice fire has destroyed the church, on November 7, 1941 and October 22, 1948. The church was rebuilt each time and in 1954 Sunday School rooms were added.

The early church was led by Abraham Molsbee and Henry Brubaker. Other ministers have included A. A. Sutter, K. G. Tennison, J. A. Miller, E. M. Kidwell, D. G. Brubaker, F. E. Maxey, Walter Peckover, C. E. Schock, D. E. Rodabaugh, J. A. Eby, Edward L. Murray.

Bowie Church of the Nazarene

The Church of the Nazarene of Bowie, Texas was organized Sunday afternoon, Sept. 26, 1909, by Rev. Dr. W. T. Givens. This organizational service was held under a tabernacle near the Denver depot. Without a church building they worshipped in the Universalists Church, and later at the Cumberland



Top Picture: Selma school teachers and students in 1902.

Bottom Picture: Selma school, February 28, 1908. Teacher, Miss Hattie Hudgins. Trustees: R. F. M. Williamson, J. H. Mabry, B. B. Ball, County Superintendent of Schools, W. B. Billingsby.

C. D. SHAMBURGER LUMBER COMPANY

BOWIE, TEXAS
Phone TR-2-3221

NOCONA, TEXAS

Phone 129

First Dial System in the County

Saint Jo Telephone Company

SAINT JO, TEXAS

Presbyterian Church.

On January 26, 1910 they bought a house for the purpose of erecting their own church building. The building was completed in June of the same year.

The Church of the Nazarene was organized with 29 charter members. Among those were the following: Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Youree, Mr. R. F. Montague, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Neeld, Rev. P. R. Jerrell, Mrs. E. L. Jerrell Mrs. Willie Dorough, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Carter (Parents of the late Amon G. Carter), Miss Mattie Moore, Mrs. M. M. Williams, Rev. J. Stanfield and others.

First Presbyterian Church, Bowie

Was organized June 15, 1884. The congregation extended a unanimous call to Rev. James Anderson of Saint Jo to supply as pastor. He remained for five years. The following were officers at the organization meeting: Dr. W. G. Hays, M. H. Reed and J. A. Conner, elders, F. H. Jones and John McIntire, deacons.

The following were charter members: G. M. Barton, James A. Conner, Mary Belle Conner, W. G. Hays, Mrs. M. Y. Hays, Mrs. Hoover, F. H. Jones, Mrs. Leeds, John McIntire, S. L. McQuigg, M. H. Reed, Mrs. L. A. Reed and Mrs. V. E. Sumpter.

Church meetings were held at the Methodist church and in homes of the elders for the first few years. The church was a member of the Presbytery of North Texas U.S.A. for about ten years and then at its own request was transferred to the Presbytery of Dallas U.S. and has continued as a U.S. Church since. Services were held at the Methodist church until 1887. Minutes do not tell where the services were held for the next few years but on January 2, 1890 the service was held at the Baptist church.

The first church building was erected in the spring of 1890 on the lot where the present church building now stands and was built jointly by the First Presbyterians and the Cumberland Presbyterians. In 1894 the Cumberlands built a new church building and their interest in the old building was purchased by the First Presbyterians. In 1894 work was done on the church building at an expense of \$325.

In 1890 and until 1892 the church was without elders and deacons and in fact had no male members. In 1893 John B. Hunt was elected elder and Robert F. Presley as deacon. Rev. George Pierson served the church as pastor from May 1889 to some time prior to October 22, 1892, when H. S. Davidson was called to the pastorate.

A Sunday School was organized in 1894 with John B. Hunt as superintendent. He served for 35 years in this position, retiring in 1929, when he was given the title of Superintendent Emeritus. Others who served as Sunday School superintendents were: M. A. Bryan, E. L. Anderson, C. C. Harris, Melvin Richardson, C. A. Wilson and Melvin Dandsby.

In May 1902 the Fruitland Presbyterian church was dissolved and the membership received into the Bowie church.

Rev. H. M. Smith became pastor in 1904. In 1907 Rev. E. S. Lowrance was called as pastor at a salary of \$500 per year. His resignation was accepted in February of 1910 and Rev. Gary L. Smith became pastor. He was married in 1911 and brought his bride to Bowie. The year 1913 was one of outstanding growth for the church as the result of a union revival conducted by Lockett Adair. In September and October of that year, 30 new members were received and all but three by confession of faith and by March 1914 the membership was well over 100 and contributions for the year totaled \$1,700. 125 were enrolled in the Sunday School.

In 1916 H. M. Spain was elected clerk of the Session to succeed John B. Hunt, who had succeeded J. A. Conner. The Session has had only seven regular clerks: M. A. Bryan, E. L. Anderson, Holt Spain and

Melvin Dandsby being the others.

In 1917 Rev. O. L. Byrns served as pastor for three months and then resigned because of ill health. Rev. Holmes G. Anderson assumed the pastorate in 1918. At this time the first reference is made in the minutes to the Young People's work which was then called the Westminster League, later Christian Endeavor and now the Presbyterian Youth Fellowship. In 1919 the church assumed full responsibility for paying the pastor's salary.

Dr. C. L. Altfather became pastor in May, 1922. He remained until November 1927.

The present church building was ready for occupancy in the early fall of 1926. The building was paid for by contributions from the members and friends in cash, and there has never been a debt against the church.

Rev. J. T. Hall became pastor in 1928. He passed away in the fall of 1935 while still pastor. Rev. B. B. Breitenhirt became pastor in 1936.

The Hammond organ was purchased through the work of the women of the church with Miss Susette Meyer of Austin donating \$1,000 for the final payment in 1946.

Dr. T. C. Vinson became pastor in 1943. Rev. Charles Tucker became pastor in October of 1949.

Nocona Church of Christ

Church of Christ in Nocona had its beginning in 1904, when T. H. Fields purchased the corner lot at Cooke and Walnut streets. He gave John Miller a contract for the erection of a small frame building. The original congregation had 15 charter members. Among the number was Mrs. N. M. Flynt who is an active member and the only charter member living.

The little band continued to grow and gain strength. According to an old copy of the Nocona News, this congregation, in the summer of 1915 had a membership of 65. At that time the elders were J. L. Grimsley, J. J. Wood and R. W. Grimsley.

From 1925 to 1928 with Bro. J. H. Childress as minister, the church was very active and assisted in establishing congregations in Belcherville, Spencer, Spanish Fort and Henrietta. During 1927 took the lead in a county wide mission program. The membership approached the 200 mark. In 1927 the old building was enlarged and made into a nice brick veneer. Serving on the building committee was S. H. Fleming, I. A. Gist, O. M. Allison and T. H. Fields, with C. E. McCarley, contractor.

During the depression years beginning in 1929 the church suffered from a financial standpoint. But faithfully carried on even though it had not been under the oversight of an eldership for several years. In 1934 Dee Wallace and S. W. Driver were appointed elders. Later W. P. Parker and Charles Leinweber were also selected. As conditions gradually improved, the church grew and in 1945 a six room preacher's home was built. Later additional class rooms were added to the building. Two meetings per year, a vacation bible school and occasionally a lectureship was part of the church program. W. O. Cooper, Carl Gentry and J. M. Porter were added to the eldership. A missionary working in the county and one from Italy were under its oversight. The annual budget grew from \$2870.00 in 1944 to \$23,400.00 in 1956. The membership increased to 260. In 1955 plans were made for an expansion program and in 1956 seven new class rooms were completed, also a beautiful new auditorium with a seating capacity of 600, equipped with artificial lighting and all-year heating and cooling. The elders, W. P. Parker, Horace Priddy, Carl Gentry, Frank Goodgion and Ray Griffin selected for the building committee, Dr. Bill Spivey, O. M. Allison, Willard Grigsby and Ed Rackley. The contract was given to R. E. Ewing.

In 1957 and 58 the church has suffered to loss of several families by reason of a "moving-away" trend. The membership numbers about 250 at the present time



Top Picture: This is the first home of the Justin Leathergoods. The factory was established in what was built for a playhouse for the Justin children.

Bottom Picture: This is the present home of Justin Leathergoods Co. It soon outgrew its first home and had to move to a larger factory. G. W. Humphreys was president of the company until he retired two years ago. He is now president of the board. Their excellent craftsmen have manufactured superior merchandise that has built a reputation all over the United States. John Justin, jr., grandson of J. H. Justin, the founder of Justin Boot Company is now the president.



BOOTS .. LEATHER GOODS .. BELTS ..

Established in
Montague County
In 1879 . . .

The name famous in
leather goods for over
Three-quarters of a century

and the elders now serving are W. P. Parker, Horace Priddy, Frank Goodgion, Carl Gentry, Bill Yeargin and S. W. Driver. Deacons, B. T. Edwards, Leroy Priddy, Dr. Bill Spivey, Willard Grigsby and Bill Richardson. Bro. Clemon M. Muse is the present minister.

Preachers who have served since 1904 are, J. L. Grimsley, Tice Elkins, F. S. Vance, J. Howard Childress, Guy Click, Melvin Wise, John Banister, Louis Dugger, Cecil Wright, J. R. Waldrum, Marshall Patton, Jimmy Wood, Jimmy Bays, Murray Wilson, John McCoy, Bill Cavender, Maxie Boren, Sid Mallory.

The Church of Christ, Saint Jo

Was established in Saint Jo, in 1889. 21 charter members met in the school.

Plans to secure a permanent place were discussed with elders Newton Field, I. D. Williams and C. Shanklin taking the lead. Purchase of the present lot from Mrs. Vina Howell and erection of a building in 1890.

The church grew and in a few years the membership was 100. E. H. Rogers held the first meeting in the new church, followed by A. Alsup, J. B. Jones, T. M. Owens, Jasper Dunn, Foy E. Wallace Sr., Foy E. Wallace Jr., Esten W. Brooks, C. McClung, J. W. Chism, John T. Lauderdale, W. H. Kidwell, C. D. Crouch, John Raymond, Winstead Cooper and others.

Following men have served as elders: Newton Field, I. D. Williams, C. Shandklin, J. D. Evans, W. H. Phillips, J. F. Aldridge, Dave Cunningham, John T. Finn, L. Hilburn, H. D. McDowell, A. P. Austin, J. L. McGregor and S. C. Roach.

During the years interest has alternately flourished and faded, but growth has been continual. The old building has been added to five times. Under the present leadership of elders W. E. Nunneley, W. A. Dunn and S. C. Roach (recently deceased), Evangelist Smith Kite, and deacons Glenn Lovett, I. E. Carver, Paul Clayton and Clarence Cole, the church has enjoyed its greatest growth, the membership now is 180. The church is in process of erecting a new meeting house. Having acquired the Clara Whaley lot east of the present building. The new building will be centered on the property and will accommodate 350 in its classrooms and auditorium.

Christian Science Society, Bowie

Christian Science Services in Bowie began in 1894 following a Christian Science Practitioner's visit here in 1893 at which time many wonderful demonstrations of healing were made. The church was organized in 1898, thus becoming one of the earliest organizations of this faith in the state of Texas. Services were held in various homes and later in several halls in town until June, 1917, when a residence located at the corner of Sanders and Tarrant streets was purchased and remodeled for church use. This building was sold in 1958 and plans are now being formulated for a new building at the same location.

Among the early workers in the church were Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Geo Chandler, Mrs. Alice Hillyer, Mrs. Fannie Camp, Mrs. Blanche Irvine, Mr. J. W. Hopper, Mrs. R. H. Boulware, Mrs. Ella Morgan, Mrs. Bouknight, Mr. Joe Cox, Mrs. A. L. Lindsay, Mrs. Brock, J. C. Wiggins, J. C. Renfro and Mr. and Mrs. Ratcliffe.

The Bowie Church of Christ

The Bowie Church of Christ was organized in 1885. At that time a building was erected where the First Christian Church now stands.

In 1895 a division in the congregation came because of the introduction of mechanical instruments of music and missionary societies. When the division came, a small group led by S. H. Lancaster, Dr. W. S. Vickery and Hiram Whitley met under a brush arbor through the summer of that year, and in the fall selected a meeting place in a small house on the South

side. A building remembered by some as the "Round Toy Church" was erected on a lot where Mrs. Sauls now resides.

In 1907 this building was wrecked and rebuilt on the present lot. In 1927 the brick building presently in use was erected.

The Church of Christ has been instrumental in assisting in a number of Mission points in the United States, and two foreign countries. In 1954, the Church of Christ planted the church in Grand Island, Nebraska, and supported a full time evangelist in that city through 1957. In addition, cooperated with other congregations in Muscatine, Iowa, Natick, Massachusetts, Levett Town, Penn; Pollyup, Washington; Montague County, and in Italy and Germany.

The church is presently constructing a new meeting house on Pecan Street, which is expected to be completed in August of this year. The new building is of contemporary design. It will have brick on the exterior and interior. The auditorium will be designed to seat approximately 500. There will be 17 class rooms in addition to the minister's study, library and two nursery rooms. The new building will be at ground level with no steps, and will be completely air conditioned.

The new building was planned by the Improvement and Planning Committee, composed of Alton Weston, Carl Shurtleff, Stanley Davlin, Norman Branson, William Snow, Darmon Bratton, Frank Green and J. B. Lamb. Roy D. Sanders Jr. is the architect.

The Finance Committee is composed of O. W. Watson, A. C. Houston, Norman Branson, and U. A. Randolph.

The building committee is composed of Jim Scarborough, Carl Shurtleff, Ray Whittington and Darmon Bratton. Frank Green is the General Supervisor.

The present membership is slightly over 300.

The Class-room Equipment Committee is composed of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Snow, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Houston, and Mrs. J. B. Lamb. This committee will plan and purchase the equipment for each of the seventeen class rooms, library, nursery and preacher's study.

Serving through the years as elders have been: A. L. Sweet, J. A. Cunningham, Dr. W. S. Vickery, W. A. Philpott, B. F. Datson, Cass Arnold, G. H. Golden, Frank Cecil, B. E. Watson, S. H. Lancaster, Donald Prater and E. C. Lovelady. Our present elders are: Jim Scarborough, O. W. Watson, Alton Weston, W. M. Bailey and W. R. Snow.

Serving the church as deacons are: Floyd Arnold, Darmon Bratton, A. C. Houston, Carl Shurtleff, Alva Stambaugh, Paul Turner and Ray Whittington.

Following the preachers who have served as local Evangelists: Foy E. Wallace Sr., N. S. Williams, J. M. Childress, T. H. Matthews, E. B. Wallace, Lester Fisher, A. F. Thurman, W. D. Black, C. D. Crouch, Cleo Jones, O. M. Reynolds, W. T. Hamilton, Ross W. Dye, Paul Gray and Willis Jernigan.

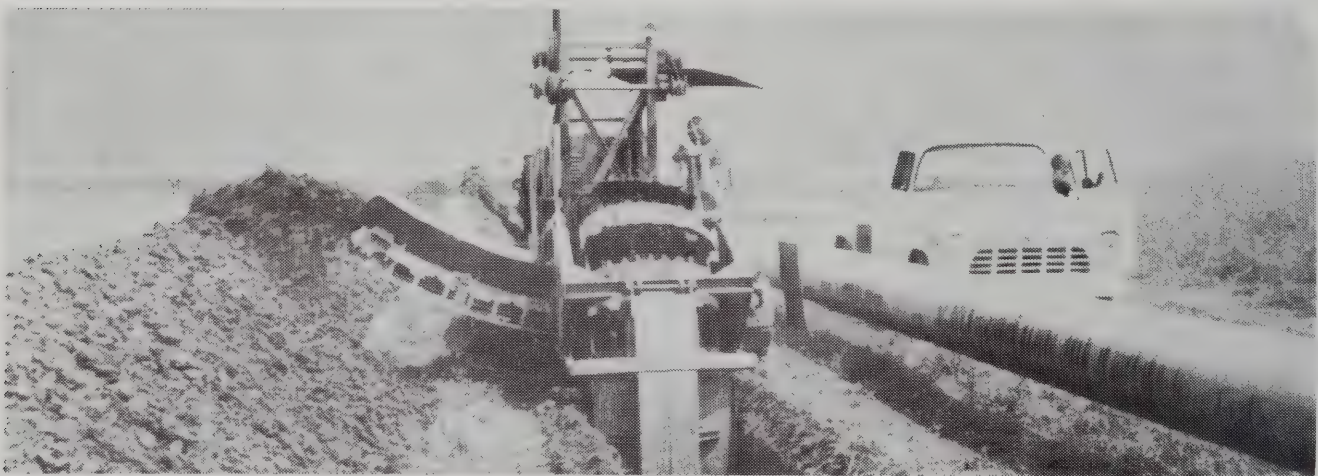
Present minister is J. B. Lamb, who came in 1955 to serve the church as local evangelist.

EXTENSION WORK IN COUNTY

Albert M. Latham became Montague county's first county agent April 1, 1909. He was followed by William A. McKenzie, R. F. Sanders, E. C. Jameson, A. S. Elliott, Nickols R. Owen, V. J. Young and Wylie Roberts.

The county agents have led the way for a lot of progress in farming methods and have always been ready to assist the farmer and rancher.

They have worked with the 4-H club boys and taught them the latest farming methods. Farmers turn to the county agent when they have agricultural problems or seek information.



Top: Men shown here are digging a ditch from the Texas Panhandle to Chicago. Manpower was the chief source of energy in the early history of pipelining.

Bottom: Six feet deep and about four feet wide is the path left behind by this modern trenching machine operated by a four man crew.

The new joined the old when 350 miles of pipeline was built from Jack and Wise counties through Montague county connecting gas fields with the existing pipelines from the panhandle to northern Illinois. Twenty-seven years of uninterrupted service to our customers is a record to which our employees point with immeasurable pride.

NATURAL GAS
PIPELINE COMPANY of AMERICA

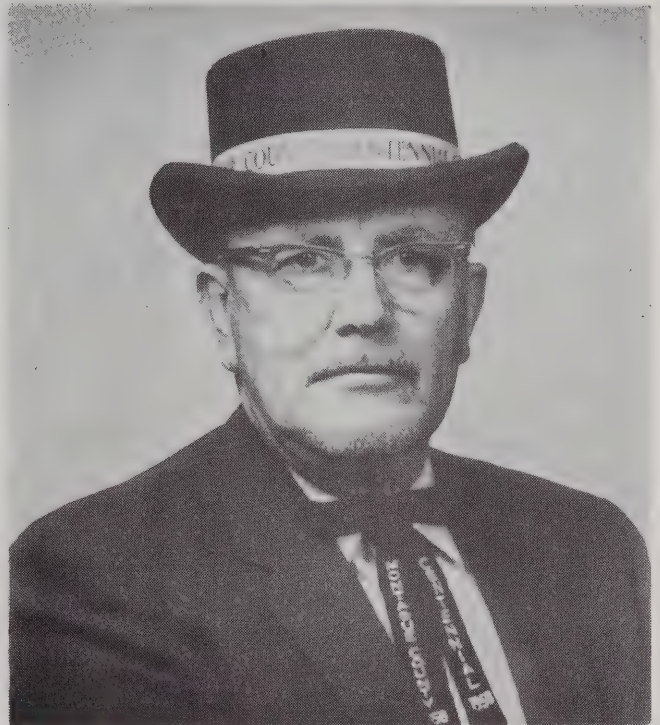
MONTAGUE COUNTY

"THE TEXAS COUNTY OF TRAILS"

By GLENN O. WILSON

About 200 years ago there was situated in what was to become Montague County, a large village of Wichita Indians, known as the Taovoyas, whose descendants are now living in the area of Anadarko, Oklahoma. From the artifacts that have been found these Indians lived in great numbers all over the area. Near the site of the present day Spanish Fort, the early white settlers came upon the ruins of fortifications with the residue of what appeared to have been a very large conflict. By reason of the fact that this had been Spanish Territory and articles of the 18th century were found, the frontiersmen naturally jumped to the conclusion that here was the site of a Spanish settlement, fort, or outpost, thus the name Spanish Fort. It has now been rather conclusively established by the research of interested people that the Spanish never occupied the area, but that the Wichita or Taovoyas Indians had established themselves in two large villages located on opposite sides of a fertile bend of Red River. These Indians were different from the Plains Indians; namely, they were agriculturists, but during the time of the year when they did not have vegetables, they subsisted on buffalo; and even today the remains of the buffalo boneyards are to be found in the vicinity of the two villages.

These villages occupied a peculiar position with reference to the Spanish and French frontiers. One of them was in French territory and the other in Spanish. Theories advanced by the latest research is that these Indians were allies of the French and that early in the seventeen hundreds the French established trading contacts with these two villages. The considerable volume of this trade accounts for the many articles of the 18th century which have been uncovered in the area. It is likely the French traveled no farther up the River than these villages and this became their point of contact with the Plains Indians. The occupation of these sites by the Taovoyas dates from about 1759 to about 1812. The Spanish made contact with these villages about the time of the American Revolution, and the representative of Spain gave the name of Taovoyas to the Indians, San Bernando to the village north of the River, and San Teodora to the one on the south side. Tradition has it that the Spanish and French engaged in battle at the time of San Teodora, but actually if there was such a conflict, it was between the Wichitas, as allies of the French and the Spanish. One writer has ad-



Mr. Wilson is a native of Montague county and a grandson of an early Montague pioneer. He graduated from high school at Nocona, and after receiving his law degree he served as County Attorney for four years before entering private practice at Nocona.

He has devoted considerable time and money in the research of history of early settlers and events in Montague county. Because of this interest in the historical background of the county, he was named chairman of the Montague County Historical Survey Committee. This is a permanent committee, responsible for the location of markers and memorials at historical spots in the county and to secure historical data concerning the area.

It is not the intention of Mr. Wilson to refer to this article as a history of Montague County, but more as a chronicle of events which transpired within its boundary from the sovereignty of the soil to the coming of the railroads. Many of these movements were of importance in the development of Texas and the Southwest. The author has refrained from dealing in personalities, except where required to develop the report of an event.

vanced the belief that those villages were on an established trail visited by the Spanish. Another writer states that the "Spanish Trail" was never a reality but that some explorations were made by the Spanish under Pedro Vial from San Antonio to Santa Fe, New Mexico, through these villages, and that had not Spain become involved in war with Great Britain, a Spanish fort might have been established at the site of San Teodora.

It is left only to conjecture as to what happened in the interim between about 1788 and the coming of the Texans; Randolph B. Marcy, the explorer



Top Picture: During World War I was the first time that Airplanes had been used for defense or combat. This is a group of seven old World War planes being flown over Montague county from a nearby airbase.

Bottom Picture: This is one of the last trail herds to go up the Chisholm trail. This picture was made in 1877.



LIVE BETTER
Electrically



of Red River, does not speak of the Wichitas south of Red River when he came through in 1849. The Indians found here by the people who came through early in the 1850s and by the settlers were the Kick-a-poo, Comanche and Kiowa.

In 1852 Marcy in his exploration of Red River makes this statement concerning the Wichitas found near the present day Rush Springs, Oklahoma: "The village of the Wichitas has forty-two lodges, each containing a frame-work of poles placed in a circle in the ground, with the tops united in an oval form, and bound together with numerous withes or wattles, the whole nicely thatched with grass; and when completed, it makes a very commodious and comfortable domicile. The interior arrangements are such, that every person has a bunk, raised from the ground and covered with buffalo-hides, forming a couch which is far from being uncomfortable. When seated around their fires in the centre of the lodges, they have an air of domestic happiness about them which I did not expect to find.

The lodges are about twenty-five feet in diameter at the base, twenty feet high, and in the distance have very much the appearance of a group of haystacks. With the exception of a few families that live upon the Canadian, the whole Wichita nation is concentrated at this place; their numbers do not exceed five hundred souls. They have during the early settlement of Texas given more trouble to the people upon the northern borders of that State than any other Indians. They have no regard for truth, will steal, and are wholly unworthy of the least confidences and their vicious propensities are only kept in check now from fear.

"Living as they do, between the white settlements and the prairie tribes, they are at the mercy of both; they seem to be conscious of this fact, and express a desire to be on terms of friendship with all their neighbors. At my urgent request they presented us with several bushels of green corn this evening, which was very acceptable for several months."

The above has been quoted in order to give an incite as to how the Taovoyas in all probability lived at San Teodora.

SANTA FE EXPEDITION

During the days of the Republic, Texans were to know a portion of what was to become Montague County. In 1841 the ill-fated Santa Fe expedition was to pass through the southwest corner of the county. Though actually not a trail, it has been referred to as the Texan Santa Fe Trail. History has recorded the reasons for this expedition and the results thereof; therefore, it will not be discussed here. The expedition came into Montague County and camped on Big Sandy Creek in the later part of July, 1841. The expedition continued with a great deal of difficulty across the southwest edge of the county close to present day Bowie.

Two days later the advance party of the expedition camped at the head of Belnap Creek in the cross timbers. This camp was evidently in the vicinity of Queens Peak and Brushy Mound. From here the expedition moved northwest out of the county.

CALIFORNIA TRAIL

The discovery of gold in California is generally known the great event leading to the opening of the West, which also played a part in the development of the Southwest. It led to the establishing of a trail across Texas from old Preston to El Paso, called the "El Paso Road" by the early surveyors, California Trail by some historians, and Marcy's Road by others. This trail or road crossed Montague County from East to West; however, the one first made by Marcy came from the West to the East.

Since this trail was important to the development of the Southwest and Montague County, the reason for its establishment and something of the men for whom the trail was named forms a part of the history of Montague County.

Randolph B. Marcy was a captain in the U. S. Army stationed at Fort Towson in the Choctaw Nation. Being a seasoned campaigner, Marcy was selected by the war department to escort a train of emigrants to California from Fort Smith, Arkansas, and at the same time to survey a proposed railroad route to California. In the early spring of 1849 Marcy and his party proceeded across the present day Oklahoma to Santa Fe, New Mexico. Leaving the emigrants there, he moved with his troops down the Rio Grande to Dona Ana, which was then up the Rio Grande from present day El Paso. He then proceeded across Texas northeast to Preston, northwest of present day Denison, now under the waters of Lake Texoma. Thus he was able to present two possible railroad routes to California. A large portion of the most southern, the one of which we speak, was to be used later by other movements southwest, especially by the first overland mail to California known as the Butterfield Stage Route, which did not follow Marcy's trail through Montague County. Along this frontier road the following important camp sites were to become known and recorded in history: Head of Elm, Barrel Springs and Victoria (Queens Peak). Marcy was later to explore the head waters of Red River, crossing present day Jefferson County, Oklahoma, entering Texas across from the present town of Ryan, Oklahoma.

Five years passed before any definite steps were taken relative to this proposed southern railroad route. In 1854 Brevet Captain John Pope of the United States army was ordered to make an exploration of a route near the thirty-second parallel of north latitude from the Red River to the Rio Grande for a Pacific Railroad. The record of this exploration is found in the diary of John Pope, who was later to command the army of the Potomac

This is the North Ward School which was Bowie's high school. The building was damaged when a car of dynamite exploded on the railroad tracks.

Bottom Picture: First graduation class of 1897 in this building. Members of the class were Etta Ball, Birdie Bettis, Mrytle Perry, Minita McCew, Alta Tindall, Minnie Graves and Barney Giles.



R. L. Garrett
Bert Cassle
Aldermen First Ward

C. V. Young
Brooks Winn
Aldermen Second Ward

Lloyd E. Butler
V. M. Brown
Aldermen Third Ward

THE CITY OF BOWIE

B. L. Greenwood
Mayor

Municipally Owned Water Works
and Electric Light Plant

Marvin London
City Attorney

Nancy N. Clarke
Secretary

BOWIE, TEXAS

at the second battle of Manassas Junction and to be severely defeated by Robert E. Lee, commander of the army of Northern Virginia. Pope was fascinated by the country through which he traveled, especially north central Texas and that portion occupied by the upper cross timber.

This is shown by what he said in his diary as he passed through this cross timbered area:

"Camp No. 52: Monday, May 5, 1854 - - Left camp at half-past 5 a.m., and resumed our course. The country still continues gentle rolling and open; post-oak in abundance, with hackberry, elm, scrub-oak, etc. We are looking for the return of our express, which is a little behind time. The distance to Fort Wasita may be, however, greater than we had imagined. Rattlesnakes are disappearing gradually since we crossed the Colorado; but in lieu of these dangerous reptiles, we have the mocassin-snake, equally poisonous and much more treacherous.

We camped at five minutes to 6 p.m. on Turkey creek, a tributary of the Red River, two and a half miles west on the Upper Cross Timbers. We had capital spring-water. Two barrels had been sunk by some of our predecessors, in which the water was delightfully pure and clear. The day and night were remarkably hot; the latter cloudy and sultry to an insufferable degree. For the first time we were annoyed by the dismal croaking of the bull-frog, which made the night hideous with its never ending and monotonous serenade. The mules turned loose, unhobbled; grazed and herded as usual. No observation made. General direction, north 40 degrees East; miles, 27½.

(This camp is what is known as Barrel Springs, located about six miles southwest of Nocona.)

"Camp No. 53: Tuesday, May 9, 1854 - - Our express arrived before we left camp, bringing a number of letters, but none of an official character. We started at half-past 6 a.m. and resumed our course. At two and a half miles from camp we struck the Upper Cross Timbers, the road through which is hilly and much cut up. In many places it is sandy, and the ascents and descents very steep; yet these do not present any serious obstacle to wagons. There is here a perfect forest of large post-oak; also elm, hackberry and other trees in abundance. In the open spaces the soil is of the best quality; grass excellent. The Cross Timbers are eight miles from west to east - - that is, from the point we entered until we left them. Reached our camp, on the east edge of the Cross Timbers, at five minutes to 11 a.m., on a well timbered ravine, in which there is a beautiful spring of water. Our encampment is delightfully situated. There was, however, one serious drawback to its enjoyment. The morning had been cloudy and threatening, raining slightly until we halted, when we had a regular thunder-storm, the rain coming down in torrents, with hail-stones of an enormous size. It continued until near sundown gradually abating in violence;

then clearing off, the night was bright and pleasant. The streams which we passed during our route today, together with the ravine on which we camped, run into Red River towards the north. The mules grazed and herded, etc, as usual. No observation made. General direction, north 85 degrees east; miles 14-4/10.

Camp No. 54: Wednesday, May 10, 1854 - - The wagonmaster and a Mexican started, at half-past 5 a.m. for Fort Washita, with official and private letters for the mail; also, to select a house and encampment for the command by the time it reaches Preston, and to make some preliminary arrangements for the sale of our mules, etc. Left camp at half-past 7 a.m. and resumed our course over a rolling and open country, passing several small streams - - sources of the Trinity - - and encamped on the Elm Fork of that river at 11 a.m. The soil of our route today is of a darker color, and appears richer than any we have yet seen. The timber is not so abundant as it has been for sometime past. The country is more open, with a most luxuriant growth of excellent grass. Our camp is delightfully situated; the banks of the creek are covered with elm, post-oak, some walnut, and other trees; water and grass abundant and good. It is a matter of some surprise that this section of country, to which nature has been so liberal of her favors, is not more settled. The soil and climate invite the farmer, assuring him a rich return. The dread of Indians is, no doubt, the principal cause; and also, perhaps, the ignorance of the advantages which are offered to the emigrant and settlers, may furnish another reason. Our survey, by bringing its resources properly into notice, will remove the latter cause; the removal of the former will follow as an inevitable sequence. Mules grazed and herded as usual, etc. Observation made for longitude and latitude. General direction, north 78 degrees east, miles 9-2/10."

In addition to the making of a survey for a future railroad, the exploration of Marcy and Pope not only furnished the necessary data for the building of a road, but gave Washington detailed data as to the type of land, water, trees, animal and plant life, surface, mineral and rocks that were found along the routes. Accompanying these men on their explorations were scientists, such as botanists, geologists and biologists, who, when possible, took back with them results of their findings. The reports of these explorations were published and furnished valuable information for the settlers later. In Marcy's exploration of Red River in 1852 a great deal of attention had been paid to the existence of a considerable amount of copper ore in the north central area, and during the coming of the settlers, prospectors were searching the area of Montague County and the upper Red River for mineral deposits.

It is only reasonable to assume that after Pope had completed his survey, a railroad to the Pacific might follow the route he and Marcy had gone over. This was particularly true in view of the fact



PICTURES COURTESY OF KENT BELLAH

Picture: The H. D. Field Family, Saint Jo, Texas.

This is the best!

HUMBLE



Golden
Esso Extra

that the Administration in a few years that followed favored the southern route, setting up as the main reason the fact that it would travel through an area not visited by severe winters and with less mountainous terrain. It would have been opposed by the anti-slavery element of Congress who feared the extension of the slave states to the West. Time was not ripe for the railroad to the Pacific, and just in the distance was the Civil War, which would forever put an end to the hope of a railroad through this area.

Though a railroad was not to come through, the first overland mail route and stage line was to be established in 1857 which would follow most of Marcy's trail through Texas.

THE COMING OF THE U. S. 2nd CAVALRY REGIMENT

Probably one of the most important events in the opening of frontier Texas came late in 1855. Montague County was a part of Cooke County during this time and no settlers were in the area, it being very dangerous for white men. Many families were on the border of this frontier desiring to move in, but it was Comanche and Kiowa ground. Surveying parties were particular targets of the Indian bands; they called the surveyor "the white man with the thing that steals land."

Currently Jefferson Davis was Secretary of War under Buchanan, and he realized that the settling of the frontier was at a standstill, because 11,000 troops could not protect 8,000 miles of frontier. Davis had been trying for some time to impress upon Congress the need of additional troops, but had not been able to secure the necessary funds to enlarge the military forces. In 1854 the massacre of a patrol of troops in Wyoming by the Indians brought Congress to the realization that additional troops were necessary. So, we find that two regiments of Cavalry and one of infantry were organized. One of these was the second Cavalry created at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, for assignment in Texas. On October 27th, they left Missouri for Fort Belknap, Texas. This organization contained the most illustrious officer personnel in American military history. Its commanding officer was Col. Albert Sidney Johnson; Robert E. Lee was second in command; all of the officers except Lee were present on this trek. Twelve of the group were to become generals in the Confederate army and five in the Union Army. In coming to Texas, Johnson and his company together with some of their families followed very closely the trail established by Marcy in 1849. On December 19th the organization camped at or near the head of Elm Creek, in what was soon to become Montague County and Saint Jo. They next camped at Barrel Springs about six miles southwest of Nocona. The following night they camped near Queens Peak (Victoria) and Mrs. Albert Sidney Johnson, who was with her husband, made the following entry in her diary:

"Friday 21st: Marched 14 miles had plenty of nice rain water standing in holes camped near Victoria peak, went on the top in the evening had a fine and extensive view discovered 2 or 3 miles distant a man who was lost 2 days since and for whom 3 men were set to search he got safely into camp this evening."

None of these troops were ever stationed in this area and only a small detachment was left at Fort Belknap. Almost upon the heels of the coming of the organization to the Southwest, we find the first settlers moving in, appearing at Head of Elm, and in the southeast corner of the county, in the vicinity of present day Forestburg and Hardy. By 1858 they had moved into the area later known as the Denver, Brushy and Selma communities. Three creeks, Elm, Clear, and Denton, which headed in the county and emptied into the Trinity, played an important part in these early scattered settlements. The creek valleys were fertile, ample supply of water was available everywhere, and timber was plentiful for protection in the winter, for the building of cabins and fences, and for firewood. It was only natural that the first settlers settled along the creeks in the timbered area of the county. As most of them came from East Texas and the southern states, they were at home here in the winter. There was one serious disadvantage which soon developed; it was easier for the Indians to approach in their raids without being discovered than it was on the prairie, such as existed in the north and northwestern part of the county.

After the 2nd Cavalry had established the line of camps and forts from Fort Belknap to the Rio Grande, movement along the El Paso road or California Trail increased; settlers from Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, Illinois and Ohio followed along its course to the Southwest. To supply and support the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, it was necessary that grain as well as other supplies be freighted in from the northeast. In 1857 we find Col. James B. Leach in command of these wagons known as "Corn trains." Col. Leach kept a diary journal of his travels through the Southwest. His description of his camps in Montague is very revealing as to the nature of the country, its beauty, and its natural appeal to the settlers. It is deemed fitting that a portion of Col. Leach's diary relative to Montague County be quoted directly.

"(1857, Aug. 25th. Camp No. 40, One Elm Fork of Trinity, Texas Dist. Travel 16 miles)

"The order to move forward was given at an early hour this morning. Our route lay entirely through a high rolling Prairie, destitute of even the appearance of timber. We saw in the early front of the morning several antelope, the first that we have met with. A few hot headed Nimrods gave chase to them but they might, with a much chance of overtaking it, as well have chased the North Wind.

"Not a settlement was seen on the line of to-days march until we reached the site of Camp No. 40.



Top Picture: Davis Blackberry Farm, Bowie. Bottom Picture: Early Day Wagon Yard.

Wichita Construction Co.

BOWIE, TEXAS

The soil had every appearance of fertility. The grazing was fine along the whole route.

"After a march of sixteen miles we reached a point on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. Abundance of water, and fine grazing for the stock, a splendid spring sending up cool streams of limpid water in bountiful profusion and the near neighborhood of the last "settlement" between Gainesville and Fort Belknap were so many inducements to camp that the idea of resisting them was not to be thought of and a camp was pitched here.

"Here a "squatter" within a few yards of the site of our camp has erected his house of logs and herds his few head of cattle, horses and hogs. He is a true type of that restless class who are always wanting a farm "further west." and to whom this country is indebted for the subjecting and opening up to civilization of its frontier wilderness. About one mile from Camp No. 40 is an extensive ranch kept up by hired men where are herded large numbers of cattle."

Camp No. 40 was at present day Saint Jo.

"(1857, Aug. 26th. Camp No. 40 on Elm Fork of Trinity, Texas.)

"This immediate section affords unexcelled advantages to the herder and grazier. We were joined at this point by the detachment of Engineers, who were detailed to survey the Air Line via Hot Springs, Ark. to Preston, Texas, on the 8th inst., referred to in the Journal of that date.

The report of Mr. G. C. Wharton, 1st Asst. Eng. to whome the survey was confided, will be made patent to the Dept.

"Having preceeded the arrival of the train at this point by several days the gentlemen of the survey have had a fine opportunity to amuse themselves in the pursuit of game which they all agree in saying, more than abounds in the neighborhood. No accident occurred during the day's march. The health of the camp is very good. No expenditures to note for the day.

(Aug. 27th. Camp No. 41. On Belknap Creek, Texas, Dis. Travel 18- $\frac{1}{8}$ miles.)

"The train was ordered to take up the line of march at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 6 a.m. A march of about four miles brought us within sight of the Western Belt of the Cross Timbers.

"They are first seen on this route by the traveller westward from the top of a commanding eminence, from which the apparently interminable forests which stretch out as far as the eye can reach North, South and West seem dwarfed to shrubs. This view is generally considered a very fine one, a number of mountain peaks seen to the North, South and West breaking the monotony of the general appearance of the country.

"This belt of Cross Timbers is like the "Little Belt", mostly a growth of scrubby Post Oaks and may with propriety be regarded as a waste place affording camping and hunting grounds to several scattered and predatory bodies of Indians and offering no inducement to the farmer or laborer to

attempt to make use of it at least for the present. We travelled to-day eighteen miles and pitched our camp on Belknap Creek near what was known as Barrel Springs. Here are found plenty of water for stock but very little in the springs for camp use. The springs might however if cleaned out and boxed up made to yeald a fair quantity of good water. We had a slight alarm of Indians from two of the Guard about nine o'clock tonight but as none were found, although a thorough search was made, it was thought to have been a false one. The Kickapoos are the savages of this "neck of the woods". The fresh fine bracing air of the plains seems to have driven all shapes of disease from the Camp. No accidents occurred during the day. No expenditures to note. Forage is plenty and good quality, yet it costs nothing.

(1857. Aug. 28th. Camp No. 42. On Prairie, Texas. Dis. Travel 19- $\frac{1}{3}$ mi.)

"The train was ordered forward at an early hour. The country through which we travelled today was exceedingly rough & broken. Mountain peaks of considerable height were frequently seen on either side of the road. The grazing capacities of this Country seem inexhaustible - - the whole of today's travel being through as fine a range as the Herdsman could wish for. At 3 p.m. Camp was ordered to be pitched about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Buffalo Springs where water was found in plenty in holes, also fine grazing. No accident occurred during the date. The health of the Camp continues good."

It will be noted that in Col. Leach's mention of the camp at Barrel Springs, he speaks of it as being located on the waters of Belknap Creek which is in the H. Ravenstone Survey. This is not the Barrel Springs found in the earlier reports of Marcy, Pope and the 2nd Cavalry, as this Barrel Springs is located on Salt Creek in the Olibarri Survey. It is evident that Leach's wagon trains did not follow the Marcy Trail in its entirety through Montague County, but left it somewhere between Saint Jo and Montague and moved directly toward the town of Montague in the H. Ravenstone Survey and on the waters of Belknap, as this would be a shorter route.

BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND MAIL ROUTE

The opening of California was the main reason for the surveying of the railroad routes to the West, and since it was not known when these roads could be built, public necessity required the dispatch of government mail to the west coast by faster means than by ships around South America. To serve this need, the John Butterfield Overland Mail Route between the Mississippi River and San Francisco was completed in 1858. A great deal has been written concerning this route, and without a doubt additional data will in time be uncovered. It is dealt with here only because it crossed the southeastern tip of the county. No actual record



Top Picture: Home built by James Gray when he settled on Pecan Creek, north of Nocona after leaving Fort Sill. On the north side are peep holes, built to watch and fight Indians if necessary. Other rooms were built around the original log cabin to complete the house.



Pictured at right: The official city body of the City of Saint Jo in 1883. Front row: Dick Anthony, T. A. Wiley and Mr. Gillenwater. Standing: Bill Owen, Capt. D. C. Blevins, Harvey Moss, Sam Hunt and Mr. Thrasher.

Nocona Telephone Company

53 Years Continuous 24 Hour Service

Exchanges in Spanish Fort and Nocona

NOCONA

TEXAS

is found of any stops or relay stations being within the boundaries of the county. Evidently such a station existed in the corner of Cooke County. The closest known station to Montague County was the "Connelly Stop" just across the line in Wise County. According to an article, **THE BUTTERFIELD OVERLAND MAIL ROUTE ACROSS TEXAS** by J. W. Williams published in the January, 1958, issue of the **Southwestern Historical Quarterly**, Connelly Station was 41 miles southwest of Gainesville and about 3 miles southeast of present day Sunset. No mention is made of any intervening station, but by reason of the distance there must have been one or more, as the distance was too great to have been made without a change of teams. Some writers have contended that the line did not cross Montague County, but evidences of this road are still to be found in the Forestburg area. Mr. Williams' article reveals "the surveyor's field notes show that the Butterfield Stage Road crossed Montague county boundary line just two miles 1470 varas north of the southeast corner of the county," according to the 1859 survey of the east Montague County line found in the General Land Office at Austin, Texas.

1958 is not only the Centennial of the County, it is the Centennial of this mail route, a commemorative stamp will be issued by the United States Government during the year. Many places along the route will observe the centennial in the fall with the "Concord coaches" again rolling over portions of the old trail.)

ORGANIZATION OF MONTAGUE COUNTY

In 1858 a sufficient number of people had moved into the area to organize the county which had been created on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1857. The date of the organization was August 2, 1858. History records the fact that three sites were proposed for the county seat, Montague being finally selected. Evidence shows that there was some dissatisfaction as to its location, as well as some question of the legality of its organization. So on October 26, 1859, sixty-six people signed a petition to the Texas Legislature requesting that the questions of the organization of the county be settled, and that the county seat remain at Montague, as it was near the geographical center. The first officers of the county elected in 1858 were as follows: County Judge, Dr. H. N. O. Polly; Sheriff, Willis Laverder; County Clerk, M. M. Hagler; County Treasurer, Isaac Burnett; County Commissioners, Austin Morris, E. S. Singletary, and a Mr. Edwards; and County Surveyor, F. M. Totty.

The following year the first census was taken, which revealed that there were 322 adults and 477 children in the county. According to the census most of these families came from the southern states with Tennessee leading. However, many came from the "border states", especially Kentucky and Missouri, and some also from Illinois,

Indiana, and Ohio, with some few directly from Ireland. It can be seen why some people in the southern part of Texas, termed the Red River area a "Yankee Country". Virtually all of these people were living in the southern and southeastern part of the county and at Montague, staying well within the cross timbers, not venturing into the prairie land to the north and northwest. Thus were to come into being the three earliest settlements of the county, Head of Elm (Saint Jo), Hagler's Store (Forestburg) and Montague. Mrs. Potter's **History of the County** relates the experience of the early settlers with the Comanche and Kiowa. These pioneers experienced the trials, sufferings, and loneliness of the frontier together with the thrill of being a part of the opening up of a new land.

Nothing of historical note transpired in the county from its organization until the Civil War. Families continued to move in and cowmen began to move their stock onto the prairie land. Soon there were several sizeable herds grazing on the prairie and in the edge of the cross timbers.

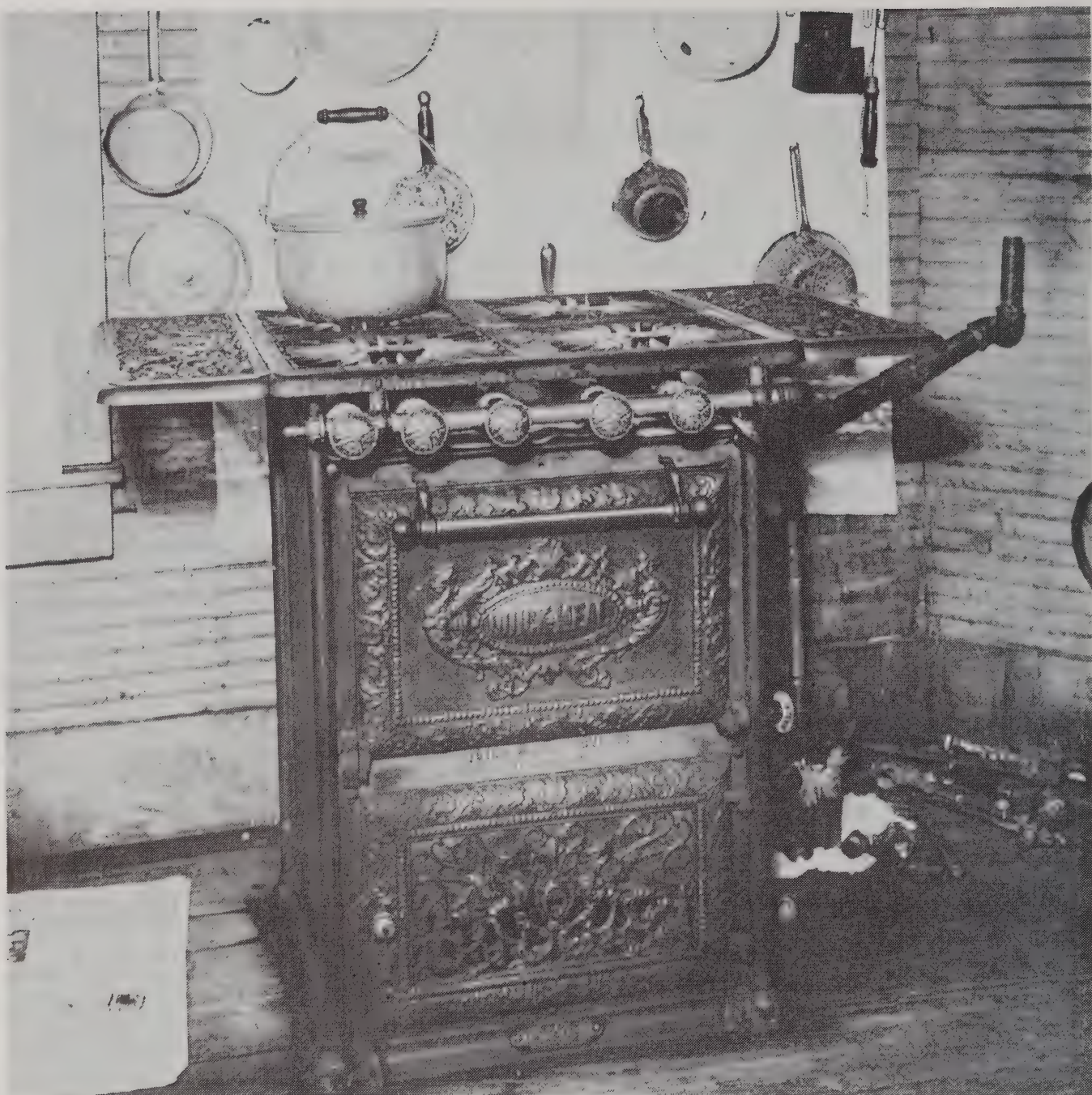
At the beginning of the Civil War the 2nd United States Cavalry Regiment abandoned the line of forts which it had been holding, and the troops stationed at Fort Cobb returned north. This left Montague and other frontier counties exposed to Indian raids, and many families moved out. Some, however, left because they were not in favor of secession. Others remained and became involved in what was known at that time as "the Georgia War". Many, however, joined Confederate forces; and tradition has it that at the outbreak of the war, men in favor of secession in the Forestburg area assembled at Hagler's Store, banded themselves together, paraded around the log building, and marched off to war.

Many of the citizens of the county who did not want to take up arms against the United States joined the frontier regiments being organized to hold the Indians in check on the frontier. It must be remembered that Montague County was far removed from an active theatre of war, but the threat of Indian depredation was ever present and protection of their families was paramount in the minds of the men as well as the State authorities who recognized the necessity for frontier troops.

Stockades for the protection of the settlers were to be found at Montague, Head of Elm, Red River Station, and Fort Stedham, which was established and used after the Civil War as a local Ranger station and an assembling point for the settlers during the Indian depredations.

ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE AND CONFEDERATE OUTPOST

For many years it was known that the Indians had used a crossing of Red River above the mouth of Salt Creek in Montague County, especially on returns from raids into Texas and old Mexico. As



Purchased when Montague County was forty years old, this antique gas range was an early step along the way to modern housekeeping.

then as now ...

GAS RANGES ARE MOST MODERN

1958 models of flame-fast gas ranges are
*fastest, most automatic, most flexible, most
economical, cleanest, easiest to control and coolest...*

LONE STAR GAS COMPANY

soon as the frontier or state militia troops were organized, the state authorities decided that one company should be placed at this crossing. So during the early part of the war, a company was sent to this point under the command of Captain Brunson, who soon resigned, and John T. Rowland was put in command. A stockade was erected, and settlers and cowmen of north Montague and Clay counties moved in and fortified up with these troops. The men of these families naturally were attached to this company in one way or another, but the majority of the membership were not from this county. The active members were kept on constant scouting patrols; and being well organized and well armed, they were able to hold down small Indian raiding parties.

On December 22nd and 23rd, 1863, occurred one of the most destructive Indian raids on the northern frontier of Texas. This raid had its beginning in Montague County. It was believed by some that, being of such magnitude, it was tied in with the North's invasion up Red River under General N. P. Banks. If this was true, it was the idea of those who instigated it that it would cause many of the Texas troops to be tied down on the frontier because of fear of a general Indian uprising. Space will not permit the full details of this raid, but those pertaining mostly to Montague County will be given, since only a small portion has ever been related in any historical document of the county. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon of December 22nd scouts from Capt. Rowland's company observed a large band of Indians crossing Red River a few miles below Red River Station. The band turned east down the river in the direction of the settlers at Illinois Bend. At this time Capt. Rowland had a squad of about 10 men camped in the vicinity of the Bend, and the scouts knew the settlers, as well as the troops, would not stand a chance against so many Indians, as they estimated there were between two and three hundred. They immediately took the news back to the company, but as they were quite some distance from their camp site at the Station, a great deal of time was consumed before pursuit could be taken up. As Rowland had portions of his company patrolling other areas of the county, he was naturally not in full force and was able to take only twenty-five men with him. The Indians completely surprised the settlers and the little band of soldiers. The four families settled here were Aaron Anderson, Enoch W. Willett, G. L. Hatfield, and a family by the name of Buchanan. Of these 4 families, Mrs. Anderson and one daughter were the first to be killed. Mrs. Anderson was killed in the yard as she was busy around a fire, and was left with her feet in the fire. The Indians then moved to the home of Willett, killing him and one daughter. The remainder of the Anderson and Willett families escaped as well as the Hatfields and Buchanans. Only a few of the soldiers stationed there were in camp, and these likewise escaped. All of the homes were burned and

the livestock, with the exception of the horses, was killed. It was reported that the Indians left blankets with the letters **U. S.** on them at the places where they had killed the settlers; for this reason, tradition attributed this raid to be tied in with General Banks' advance up Red River. It is surprising that so many of these settlers escaped, but those familiar with the terrain can easily understand how this could happen, especially in view of the fact that the Indians were moving on to other settlements in Cooke County, and also realized that Captain Rowland would soon be pressing them from the rear. As they moved into Cooke County, they carried plunder from the homes of the settlers. Some of the Indians put on women's dresses, put bonnets on the heads of their horses, and tied bright colored cloth to their horses' tails. Rowland arrived too late to help at the settlement. For some reason the Indians re-crossed Red River, causing Rowland to believe that they had given up the raid. He moved his troops to the Wallace settlement in Cooke County, and during the night he was joined by some Confederate troops from Captain Patton's company stationed at Gainesville. The next morning the Indians crossed back into Cooke County and continued their raiding. During the day the white men engaged the Indians in a fight on the Potter farm, the full details of which can be found in the history of Cooke County. Two of Captain Rowland's company were killed and several wounded. Those from this county that were killed in the raid were buried at Head of Elm and Red River Station.

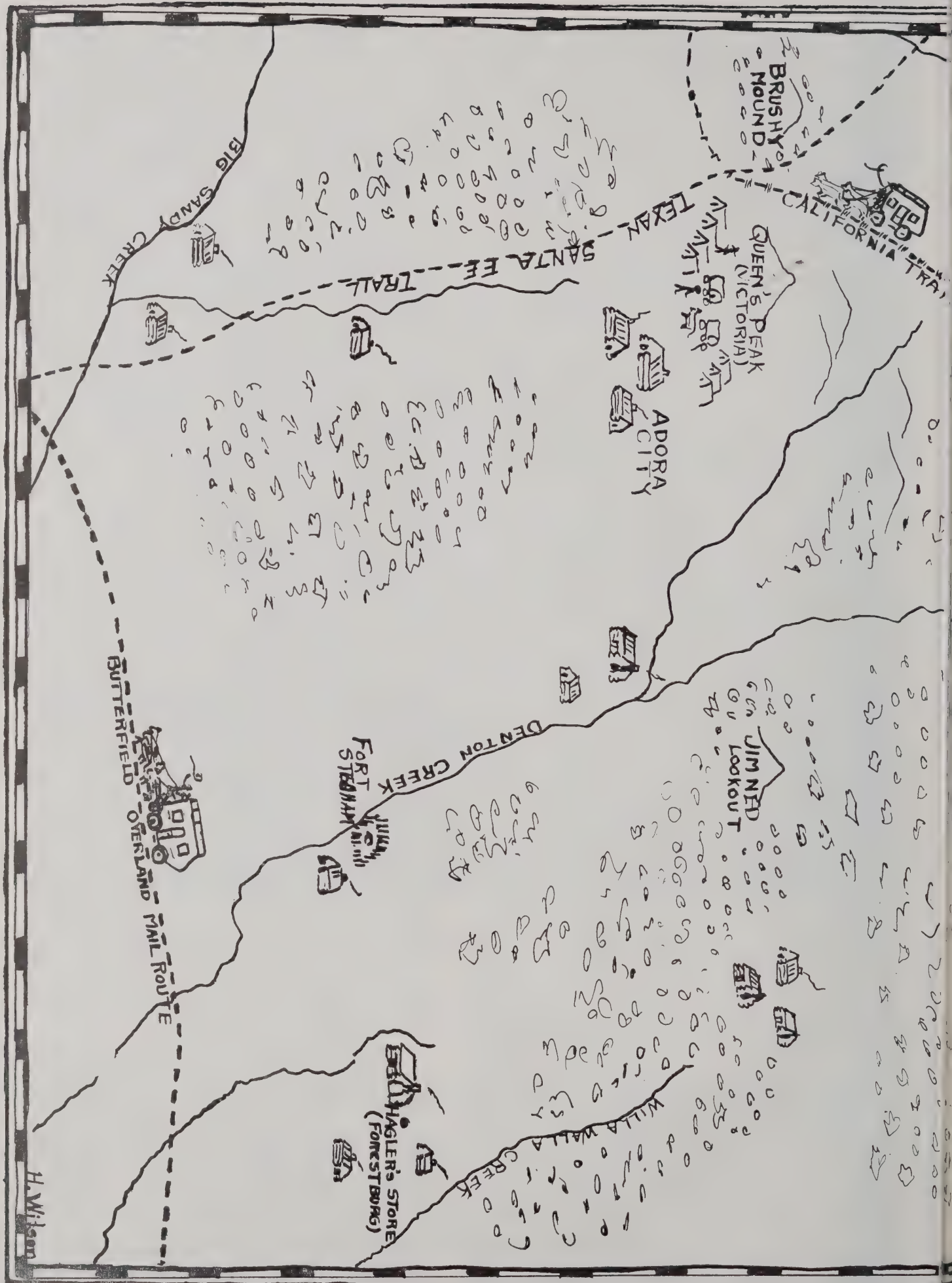
It is said that following this raid about twenty-three men left and went to Kansas, some of them having been a part of Rowland's company. Several did not return to the county until after the war.

ERA OF SEVERE INDIAN DEPREDACTIONS

In 1864 Captain Rowland's company was transferred to South Texas and inducted directly into the Confederate Army. This left Montague County without any organized military force, but soon local Ranger companies were organized by the resident citizens, and from this time to the end of Indian depredations there were several of these small local Ranger bands operating in the county with headquarters at Head of Elm, Fort Stedham, Montague, and Red River Station.

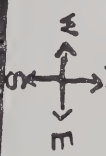
Soon after Rowland's company left the county, the Comanches and Kiowas began their small party raids; from then until the end of the depredations in 1872, the settlers were almost driven out by their constant and vicious raiding, during which time more than thirty people were killed or taken into captivity. Mrs. Potter's **History of Montague County** relates some of these Indian raids; however, some facts concerning them are not generally known. A few of these will be given.

After the war Fort Sill was established to replace Fort Cobb in Indian Territory with the U. S.



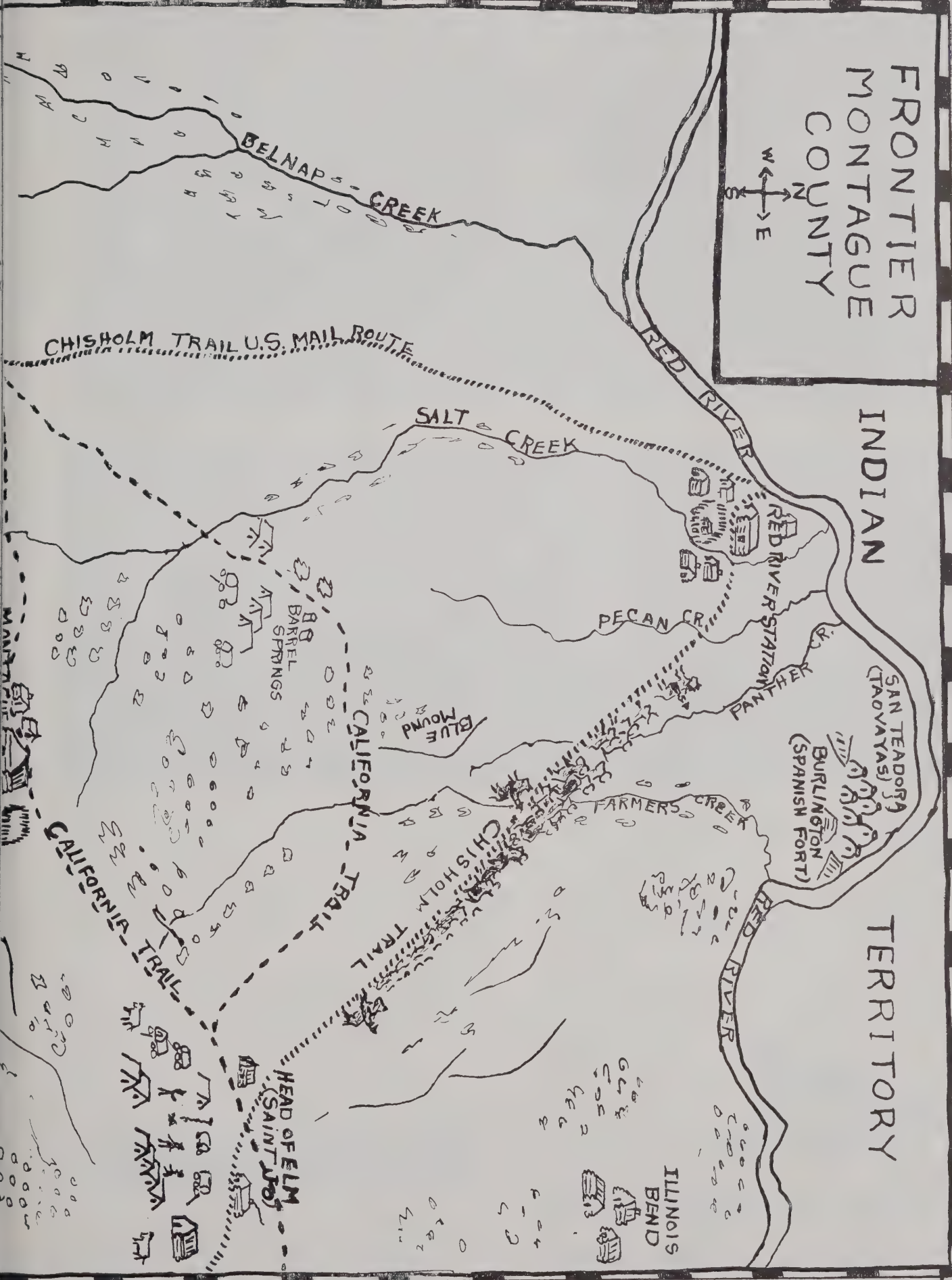
H. Wilson

FRONTIER
MONTAGUE
COUNTY



INDIAN

TERRITORY





Top Picture: These are county officials in 1885; 1, M. W. Minor, 2. A. W. Cunningham, Dep. Sheriff; 3. W. G. Bailey, Sheriff; 4. W. L. Snapp, Pct. 4; 5, C. F. Spencer, Co. attorney; 6, T. J. Wheeler, Rec. 2; 7, I. L. Shultz, pec. 1; 8, J. J. Ryan, Janitor; 9, S. M. Jameson, co. clerk; 10, N. F. McClellan, jailor; 11, A. W. Ritchie, co. judge; 12, J. E. Barefoot, Tax Assessor; 13, I. N. Preston, Tax Assessor; 14, Dr. M. F. Sherill, Co. Phys.; 14, H. S. Walker, Tax Collector; 16, R. O. Harris, Dept. Co. Clerk; 17, I. M. Clark, Dept. Tax Collector; 18, W. A. Morris, Co. Treas.; 19, J. E. Strong, Co. Clerk; 20, W. A. Dyer, Co. Supt. Schools; 21, D. D. Jackson, Dept. Tax Assessor.

Bottom Picture: Forestburg Gin in 1900. This was one of the 54 gins in Montague county at that time. There were 4,447 bales of cotton ginned by this gin during the year of 1900.

SAVINGS plus high dividends
low cost **HOME LOANS**

**INSURED SAVINGS
CURRENT
DIVIDEND 3½%**

**FIRST SAVINGS
& LOAN
Bowie, Texas**

Raborn Insurance Agency

BE SURE — INSURE

Box 190

Bowie, Texas



PEDIGO PHARMACY

DIAL 2332

SAINT JO, TEXAS

SERVING THIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1892

Cavalry troops stationed there as well as at other forts in Texas. Those nearest Montague County were at Fort Richardson at Jacksboro. The Indians had their reservation in the vicinity of Fort Sill and were under the supervision and control of the Indian agencies, a part of the U. S. Department of Interior. They were not responsible to the U. S. Army, and the agents were mostly Quakers from Pennsylvania, who devoutly believed they could christianize the fierce Comanche and Kiowas. To this error of judgment a great sacrifice of human lives and property was to be paid by the settlers of North Texas and especially Montague County. Those familiar with the history of Indian depredations in this county know of the attack on the James Box family in 1866, as they were going to Gainesville, Texas, from their home at Head of Elm in Montague County. The Indians committing this depredation were Kiowas under the leadership of Santanta, one of the Indian Chiefs later tried and convicted at the famous Indian trial at Jacksboro, Texas, in 1871. Mrs. Box and her children were taken to at least two army posts before being purchased by the Commanding officer of Fort Dodge, Kansas. These facts are not generally known.

The Indian raid in 1868 in which Nat and Dora McElroy were captured was committed by Comanches from two bands, the Kotchatoka (Buffalo-eaters) and the Noconee (Antelope Band). It was the Quahoda Comanches, who made the attack on the Maxey and Beale families in September, 1870.

After the trial of Santanta and Big Tree at Jacksboro, a Grand Jury of Montague county indicted White Horse, a Kiowa Chief, for murder raids in this county. The Army authorities at Fort Sill were requested to turn him over to officers of this county to stand trial. The officers in charge at Fort Sill refused to take the Indian into custody, as the Indian Agents were in charge of all Indian affairs, and refused permission to let him be taken, contending that Santanta and Big Tree should not have been taken to Jacksboro. It was such incidents which aroused the whole of Texas against this department of the United States Government and the Quaker agents in charge in Indian Territory. The Indians had little respect for the agents and openly bragged of the vicious raids into Texas and especially of the three raids into Montague county. They were permitted to bargain for the release of captive women and children taken from Texas and Kansas and to drag them as slaves over Indian Territory and Western Kansas. The U. S. Troops were bitterly opposed to the Peace Policy of the Indian Bureau and contemptuous of the Quaker Agents and their brotherly love attitude toward those Indians.

Little was done to curb these raids into Texas until General W. T. Sherman and Randolph B. Marcy narrowly missed being massacred by the Indians, who attacked and killed a party of teamsters in Jack County in 1871. Upon hearing of this

attack General Sherman proceeded to Fort Sill via Victoria Peak and Red River Station, where, at his orders, Santanta, Big Tree and Santank were arrested and sent to Texas for trial. Following this, the raids in this area began to die out, but it was the feeling of that day, and known to be true to-day, that had sterner measures been taken against these Indians following the Civil War by the U. S. authorities, many lives of Texas people would have been saved as well as much property. The above has been given not only for being a part of the events that transpired in this county and of people who had chosen to live here, but also to bring out a statement made by citizens of Montague County in a letter to the Texas State Authorities in 1866, which is quoted.

"We Stand as a breakwater for the protection of the state against the Indians, have done so for years. We will be forced to give up the frontier unless sustained, sustain us and we will still protect you."

ERA OF OUTLAWS

During the Civil War and for a period of several years after, some difficulty was experienced in the county with renegade white men and outlaws who moved into Indian Territory to escape being involved in the war. Many of these renegades associated themselves with the Indians and were said to have been involved in some of the raids in the county, particularly in the cattle stealing which took place after the war. Not many actually took up their residence here, but their passing through and/or hiding out from other parts of the country to some extent gave the area a bad name. Since it was located on the border of Indian Territory, it was only natural that it would be subject to such during the trying times of the war and the reconstruction period following. There were some known incidents in which these people were involved and punished. Actually, this part of the history of Montague County can never be truly told or analyzed. Most of the known outlaws of those years who came and went through this county were seen and known; but, being on the move, seldom were they involved in any trouble here. No questions were asked. The James boys, Wes Hardin, Al Jennings, Belle Starr, and many others well knew the little settlements, Saint Jo, Red River Station, and Burlington.

As hereinabove stated, during the latter part of the Civil War and for several years after, Montague county had a bad name as being a hideout of horsethieves, etc. This was an unjust accusation. It will not be disputed that here were thieves of all types here and that they came and went through this county because of its location. However, a great percentage of the early people of this county were honorable and were in no way connected with such activities. Some of the accusations came from the U. S. authorities in Indian



Montague County officials are ready for the Centennial celebration, starting July 27 to August 2, 1958.

Standing l. r. District Judge Louis Holland; Carl C. Benton, County auditor; Sheriff Tom Lindsey; County Judge W. D. Grigsby; Mrs. Reba Stanfield, home demonstration agent; Mrs. Vera Abbott Rogers, county treasurer; Homer C. McDaniels, Montague county veterans affairs officer; Henry Johnson, County superintendent of schools; Earl Fitts, County attorney; Tandy Welch, deputy sheriff.

Seated: Bailey Jackson, commissioner; seated on step, l. r. Ray Shields, court stenographer; Elton Winton, Tax assessor and collector; Glen Pribble, county clerk; B. J. Wood, commissioner; Jim Fenoglio, custodian and jailer; Cecil Adkins, district clerk; Ed Cooksey, commissioner; absent, Howard Middleton, commissioner.

AMERICA'S FAVORITE GROCER

QUALITY FOODS

LOWER PRICES

NOCONA

BOWIE



100 Years Old Next Year

America's Foremost Retailer of Fine Foods Since 1859

Territory, who, in most cases during the first years following the war, did not care for Texans, and were indifferent to the Indian raids in Texas. One story relative to such an incident which partially transpired in this county and has been handed down by tradition took place in the late seventies. A group of men brought a string of horses across the river between Red River Station and Burlington and proceeded down the river to Burlington. They were following by a troop of negro cavalry from Fort Sill. Apparently the men knew this fact. They did not count on the white officer in charge dividing his forces and sending one portion rapidly down the river on the Indian Territory side to cross at Burlington and thus throw the men between two forces, each far superior to their own. This forced the seven men to leave the horses in order to make their escape. They proceeded to a house near Eagle Point where they requested the owner to prepare them a meal; this was done. While they were eating, their lookout advised that some of the cavalymen were still following them. The owner of the house requested the men to leave in order that there would not be trouble on his premises. This the men did. Moving to a small grove of timber, they dismounted and prepared as though they were going to make a stand. After consultation the cavalymen departed, and the seven men proceeded out of the county.

Several years later one of these men came back to the county; his version of this affair was in substance this: The horses they were driving had been taken from some of the seven men in South Central Texas and they had trailed them to Indian Territory. Upon finding the horses, they proceeded to drive them back to Texas, but they were forced by action of the Cavalry to abandon them near Burlington.

CATTLE BECOMES KING

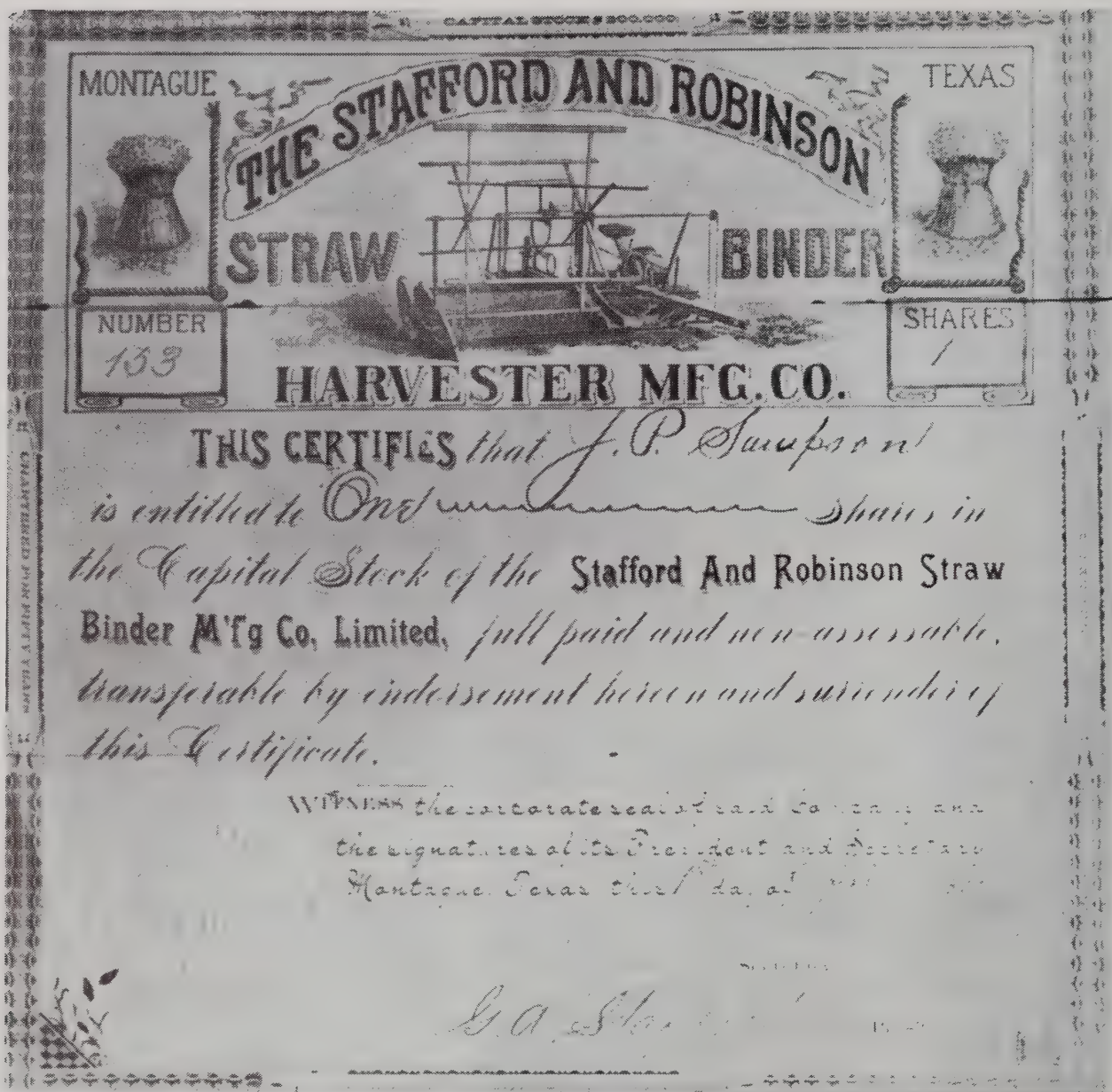
During the war many head of cattle were requisitioned from Montague county by the Confederate Army. There were several good herds of cattle, as well as one herd of horses, here at the beginning of the war. These cattle were owned to a great extent by people who did not live in the county, but who sent their herds here to range under the supervision of some member of the family or a foreman and several cowboys. Usually these men established a camp or headquarters near good water, erected a log cabin, and from this point grazed or ranged their herds in a circle around the headquarters. In this manner the greater parts of the separate herds were kept together; but as the war years were on, there were fewer men to herd; consequently, the cattle herds were soon running together. In the spring and fall of each year there would be a general roundup mostly in the four counties of Montague, Clay, Jack, and Wise; it was not unusual for as many as forty men to be in on these roundups even during the war. These men

marked and branded the calves of cows bearing their brand and divided the unbranded cows that were brought in. When this was done they would as near as possible separate the respective cattle and drive them back to the section of the country where they were grazing their herds. Cowmen from Montague County usually lived at Head of Elm, Montague, Victoria Peak, and Red River Station. Practically all of the cowmen who ranged their cattle in North Clay County lived at Red River Station. Those cowboys who did not have their families or were single boarded with men who had families or "batched" together. It is not generally known that the furnishings of beef was so important to the Confederacy that men were given exemption for herding cattle. This was true of several men who were so engaged in Montague county.

ERA OF THE GREAT CATTLE DRIVES

By the end of the war conditions were bad and the cattle were more or less running together. By 1866 more men were available and again the cowmen were running their cattle to a great extent in separate herds and were continuing to have the four county roundups. Some cattle were moved out of the area southeast of Missouri from the Red River Station area, going up what was known as the Shawnee Trail. History has revealed what happened to most of these drives. The North was wanting cattle and Texas had them, but getting them there was another matter. Texas was not only land poor, but was cattle poor. This was also true of Montague County.

The cowmen had a forewarning of what was to come. There were many renegade white men just across the river as well as in Montague county. Cattle prices were up in the North and men knew the value of beef in the Northern markets. The Comanche and Kiowa had been engaged steadily in stealing of horses in Texas. They had made peace with the U. S. and of course knew that the Texans had been defeated in war with their white brothers of the North. They soon realized the peace to their liking; and so Texas was to be their battle policy instituted by the Indian Bureau was to be ground, the place where the young braves were to have their sport at the expense of blood and tears of the frontier Texas families. In 1866 the Indians began a new type of raid upon the frontier counties. Heretofore, they did not bother with cattle to any extent, maybe taking a few or killing a few to eat or for sport; but in the fall of 1866 large bands of up to two hundred or more began coming into Montague county and Clay county and rounding up the cattle and driving them across Red River. The few cowmen were unable to cope with such a situation and had to get out of the way or run for their lives. Again the full details of these several large raids in Montague and Clay counties could not be given here; however, to give the



This is a copy of share of stock for the Stafford and Robinson Straw binder Harvester Manufacturing Company. The share was issued April 1, 1891. Some report that it was manufactured before McCormick started manufacturing their binder that started mechanizing agriculture.

Very few old timers remember the company, how long it operated or much about it, but it has been determined that the company did business in a building on the southwest corner of the square. J. P. Sampson was county judge at one time, but records do not indicate whether he was at the time this stock was issued. J. D. Hagler was a rancher and well known in the county. G. A. Stafford was a merchant at Montague.

IN NATURAL GAS...

We have the quickest, cleanest, safest, and most economical fuel in the world. And the magic of research brings us miracle gas appliances, that eliminate household chores.

THAT'S PROGRESS.

City Gas Company

NOCONA, TEXAS

reader some idea of what took place, one such raid will be related.

In September, 1866, a rather large herd of cattle was being grazed in the area between Montague, Queens Peak, and Red River Station while a large herd of horses was being grazed on Belknap east of present day Stoneburg. Eight men were herding the cattle and some three or four men were with the horses. The cowmen had a log cabin near Barrel Springs, where they were "batching"; the cattle were bedded down west of their headquarters. Early on the morning of September 20th, 1866, one of the cowboys stepped out of the cabin to see about their horses that were kept at the cabin. They had a remuda of around twenty horses some distance from the house. Upon coming out of the door, this man saw some Indians driving off their remuda. He immediately gave the alarm, and as soon as possible they took up pursuit. The Indians were not in much of a hurry and the white men were cautious about making an attack. The horses were being driven in the direction of the herd; and upon arriving at a spot where the cattle could be seen, they could hardly believe their eyes. About eighty Indians were rounding up the cattle and moving them in the direction of present day Ringgold. Other Indians soon brought in the horses from the herd west of the cattle herd; the boys guarding them had to run for their lives. The Indians made no attempt to molest the white men, but without a doubt they could have caught the men in the cabin off guard. They knew they were being followed, but were in no hurry. It goes without saying that the cowboys kept a safe distance. They sent a runner to Red River Station for help. On the way there, he met some freight wagons going to old Fort Cobb, but these men could not leave their wagons and reported that most of the men at the Station were in Clay county with their cattle. The men at the Station could not leave as they were on assigned duty to protect the settlement. So the cowboys had to watch their cattle disappear across the river. Later, the freighters reported that they crossed the trail of this herd in Indian Territory. Almost within a month most of the cattle as well as many of the horses were cleaned out by these raids. Some of the men who owned these cattle gave up and moved out of the county; others stayed to breast trying days yet to come. The U. S. government tried to establish that these raids were the act of white men and not Indians, but this would not hold up in face of the evidence. There is not much question but that some white men were involved in this and were likely the instigators. It was the talk around the camp fires that it was possible that some Texans of note could be behind the move. In the raids on the herds grazing east and west of the Little Wichita, the cowmen noted that when the Indians came in to take the herds away from them, there were a few horsemen off in the distance who did not take part in the attack. They later wondered if these were white men.

For many years historians have written about the movement of Texas cattle to the railroads in Kansas. Much of what happened in Montague county concerning these drives was not developed until recent years; much is yet to be written. With the railroad at Abilene, Kansas, and with a man of foresight, such as J. G. McCoy, interested in getting Texas cattle to market, cattle were bound to go North. The most direct route was straight north through the heart of Texas and the Indian Territory. The trail of Jesse Chisholm through Oklahoma and the crossing at Red River Station were both well known; so it was only natural that the trail bosses were told to hit the "Chisholm Trail" at Red River Station. In the fall of 1867 the first herds came through the county on their way to Abilene. There is much confusion as to the true location of what is now known as the "Chisholm Trail" in Montague County. Today it is believed by most authorities that in the beginning the trail in Texas was not called "Chisholm Trail". It was known by various names. By some it was called the "Kansas Trail", "Abilene Trail", or "Eastern Trail"; but by reason of the fact that the herds were pointed toward the "Jesse Chisholm Trail" in Indian Territory, the whole of the Eastern Trail, which had its focal point in leaving Texas at Red River Station, became generally known as the "Chisholm Trail". The first herds coming into the county established two feasible routes, which were followed to a great extent by later herds. One of these routes came into the county from the southeast through Head of Elm and thence northwest to the crossing at Red River Station. Herds that came from the southwest followed a portion of what was known as the California Trail via Victoria Peak, continued northeast almost to Salt Creek, thence north, following generally the west side of the creek to the "Station". In 1868 the herds of cattle increased, and soon one could have drawn a line from Red River Station southeast to Houston and another from the same point southwest to Uvalde, Texas, and he would have seen that Red River Station was the end of a giant funnel through which millions of head of cattle were to pour out of Texas on their way to the railheads in Kansas. As the herds increased, they, of course, did not follow in the direct path of a herd ahead of them; so, as the years advanced, the statement of an old timer who said that the trail passed "right over yonder" was correct; but another who said that the trail passed "right by my place" was also correct. So as to Montague County - - the trail was almost as wide as the county. Not all of the herds crossed at the "Station". At times when there were many herds in the area waiting their turn to cross Red River, instead of waiting to make the station crossing, they would cross below the mouth of Panther Creek and at what was known as the "Yellow Bank Crossing" above Spanish Fort.



PICTURES COURTESY OF KENT BELLAH

Top Picture: Montague county young ladies out for a horseback ride at the turn of the century.
 Bottom Picture. Members of the K. of P. Lodge No. 222, Saint Jo, in 1890.

Monuments are Permanent Pages of History

HENDERSON *Monument Company*

DESIGNERS OF PERSONALIZED MONUMENTS

AUTHORIZED DEALER

Rock of Ages; Georgia Marble, Sienna Pink and all Standard Materials

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Bowie, Texas | Montague & Cummings | Phone TR 2-3271 |
| Wichita Falls, Texas | 5001 Jacksboro Highway | Phone 767-7750 |
| Abilene, Texas | 801 N. Treadaway | Phone OR 3-3313 |

SURVEYING THE TOWNSITES

At the end of the Civil War there were only three settlements or what might be termed towns or villages in the county, namely Montague, Head of Elm, and Red River Station. Hagler's Store had been abandoned; but with the coming of the great herds of cattle, the scene began to change rapidly. Small communities began to spring up all over the county, and (about) 1871 townsites were being surveyed for several of the communities. Montague townsite had been partially surveyed prior to the war. Saint Jo was next, and thereafter Hardy, Forestburg, Queen's Peak, Red River Station, Duxberry, Burlington, and Eagle Point were surveyed as townsites about the same time. A map of postal routes in Texas in 1874 showed that there were four post offices in the county, namely, Montague, Saint Jo, Salt Creek (Red River Station), and Adora City. Mail was brought in at first by carriers on horse back; however, stage coaches made some runs from Gainesville via Head of Elm to Red River Station in the early seventies. Mail was carried from Montague to Clay County, and the postal map shows a regular route running from Gainesville to Montague to Henrietta in 1874. As soon as Fort Sill was established in Indian Territory shortly after the war, a postal route and an Army stagecoach route ran from Camp Stockton west of the Pecos River to Fort Concho, Fort Griffin, Fort Belknap, Fort Richardson, and Red River Station (Salt Creek as the post office there was officially known) thence across the river to Fort Sill. A great deal of army personnel moved over this route in the first few years after the war. Later the movement was farther west across Clay County and then across Red River. As herein above related, Gen. Sherman moved over this route to Fort Sill in 1871 at the time of the arrest of Santanta and Big Tree.

Many of the above named small towns came into being by reason of the cattle coming through; this was especially true of Duxberry and Eagle Point; and as Red River Station and Saint Jo were already in being, they began to grow and together with Montague were the largest settlements. Soon, however, the movement of so many cattle through Red River Station became a drawback, and by the early eighties it began to die as a town, and settlements like Burlington (Spanish Fort) and Belcherville began to draw people instead of the "Station". By the mid-seventies the movement of cattle up the Eastern Trail began to diminish. There were several reasons for this. Too many settlers were moving in the trail sites; a great deal of trouble was being experienced between the trail drivers and the settlers; therefore, where possible, the cattle went up the Western Trail to Dodge City, but herds continued to come through until the late eighties.

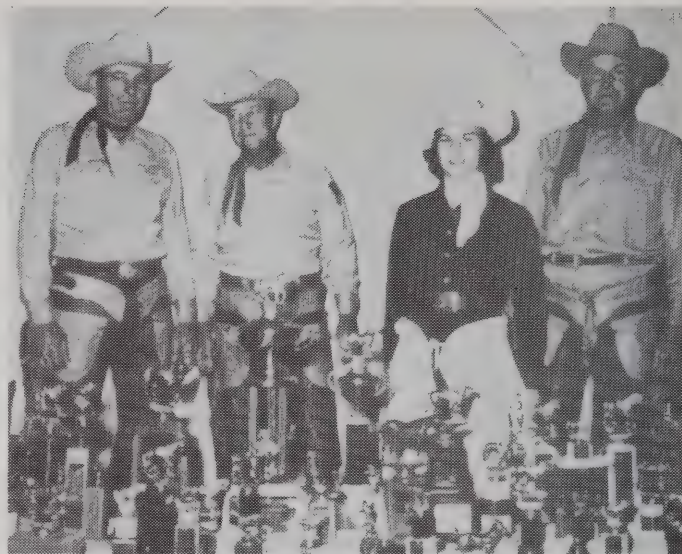
During the mid-seventies so much trouble with the cattle rustlers was being experienced in Texas

that the cowmen were forced to organize for their own protection. Thus came into being the Texas Cattle Raisers Association. Through this organization cattle inspectors were brought into being, and one of their main fields of operation was in Montague County, not because there was any more cattle stealing here than in any other place, but because this was the main point for the herds leaving Texas. These inspectors (brand inspectors as they were sometimes called) had stations at various places in the county. Their main field of operation was at Red River Station, but they operated out of Saint Jo, at Queen's Peak, or at Adora City, and at times would pitch camp at various places in the county to inspect the herds for stolen cattle. This was not an easy task, and several shooting scrapes took place between the trail drivers and the inspectors. Reliable trail drivers did not resent inspection by these officers, whom they believed to be honest. By the time the inspection law came into effect, there were a great many small cattle men and farm settlers with cattle along the trail. It was only natural that some of these cattle would get mixed up with herds as they passed; when this happened, the honest trail driver would make arrangements to purchase the cattle picked up or allow them to be cut out of the herd. However, as one settler remarked, some "not so honest drivers who kinda increased their herds as they went along", did not want them inspected and prevented this when they could. On one occasion the drivers threw a rope around an inspector, tied him up, and left him along the trail, later notifying some men at the "Station" where he could be found. This happened on the western fork of the trail southwest of Belcherville. On another occasion at the "Station" the drivers of one herd defied the inspectors and were involved in a shooting scrape. They succeeded in making the crossing without and inspection, but word was sent to the U.S. Army authorities at Fort Sill. According to tradition, the troops forced the men to return the cattle to the Texas side of the river. It was believed by some that Wes Hardin was with this group. It is not inferred that all of the inspectors were honest in their dealings with the trail drivers, but by far and large they were.

There are many stories and tales concerning incidents happening in the county during the trail days. Many of the true events, however, were never told; or if told, they have been lost with the passing of time. However, it is not fitting to pass so important a period in the county without relating some of them.

The crossing of the "Big Red", as it was sometimes called by the cowboy, was always dreaded in the spring of the year because of high water and the ever present floating logs and drifts, which at times made it impossible to cross. Several herds would have to be bedded down in the valley to wait for the river to go down. At times drivers, being impatient, would cross too soon with disas-

To keep the interest of the old west alive, many towns through the southwest have organized Riding clubs, to ride in parades and other celebrations. Montague county has four riding clubs, at Nocona, Bowie, Saint Jo and Montague.



Top Picture: The officers of the Chisholm Trail Riding club. Captain J. H. Crow, First Lieutenant Chris Neeld, Sandra Henderson, club sweetheart and Jack Crownover, Second Lieutenant. They are standing behind the trophies they have won at various parades. Their first parade was at Fort Worth at the Fat Stock Show and they make the trip each year.

Bottom Picture: Officers of the Bowie Riding Club. l. r. James Cantwell, parade Captain; Posey Joe Hanson, parade Captain; Homer Jackson, 2nd vice president; T. O. Morgan, first vice president; Dee Miller, President; Seated l. r. Mrs. Robert Cantrell, treasurer; Mrs. Dee Miller, secretary; Mrs. Posey Joe Hanson, reporter. The Bowie club has won a number of trophies at the number of parades they have attended.

FORT WORTH FRIENDS

OF

Montague County

trous results. There were several known drownings. The milling of the herds in the river was more common because of inexperienced trailmen during the first years of the drives. The drivers learned not to cross their herds at Red River Station during the morning at certain times of the year, but to wait until after high noon because the reflection of the sun upon the water would blind the cattle.

One story of a crossing at the "Station" stands out. In the middle seventies, a rather large herd came into the "Station" with most of its drivers being Mexican cowboys or vaqueros. It was learned that some of the cattle had come from Mexico, and evidently this was the first time for the trail boss to pass through the "Station". When he arrived with the herd, the "Big Red" was on a rampage. The trail boss had been warned that he could not make the crossing until the river went down. He waited one day and then started the herd across against the advice of the men who knew the river. The herd had been bedded down west of the "Station". The drivers started the herd in the usual manner, the flankers pressing the cattle in close and forcing the rear of them forward. Many at the "Station" gathered on the bluff to watch this crossing as all knew what would likely happen. The cattle would not take the water, nor would the pointer's horse. The persons watching noticed that the horse worked himself down the river bank from the front of the herd, and as the cattle would not take the water, the pressure was so great that they broke out behind the pointer and took the vaquero with them into the swollen stream. Neither the rider nor his horse was seen again.

People familiar with rural life know of the experiences of children being unable to get to school because of high water, but not many know that a herd of cattle passing could cause the same thing. This was the experience of children at Saint Jo during the early trail days. On account of so many herds being bedded down at Red River Station, the school house was moved down at Red River Station, the school house was moved out of the way of the herds.

There are many stories of men who died in Montague county along the trail. During these days the body of a negro was found near Adora City; nothing remained but his bones and portions of his clothing. The officers determined that he must have been a cook for some trail outfit. Two dimes were found in his pocket and remain today with the family of the Justice of Peace who with the officers examined the remains.

One cowboy who came with a herd through Saint Jo fell in love with a girl he met there. After he had gone almost through Indian Territory, he left the herd and came back and married her. One trail boss who had gone through the Civil War took sick with typhoid fever. He was taken to a hotel in Red River Station, where after days of linger-

ing illness he died and was buried in the "Station" cemetery, where his grave is today unknown and unmarked.

High water was not the only danger to the early herds that came through. During these early years, as herein related, the Indians were continually raiding the settlers. It was only natural that they would come in contact with the trail drivers. As a rule they did not bother the cattle, but would steal the horses. If they caught any of the men away from the herds, they would kill them if it was at all possible. Two cowboys who had left their herds between Queen's Peak and Red River Station were killed by the Indians.

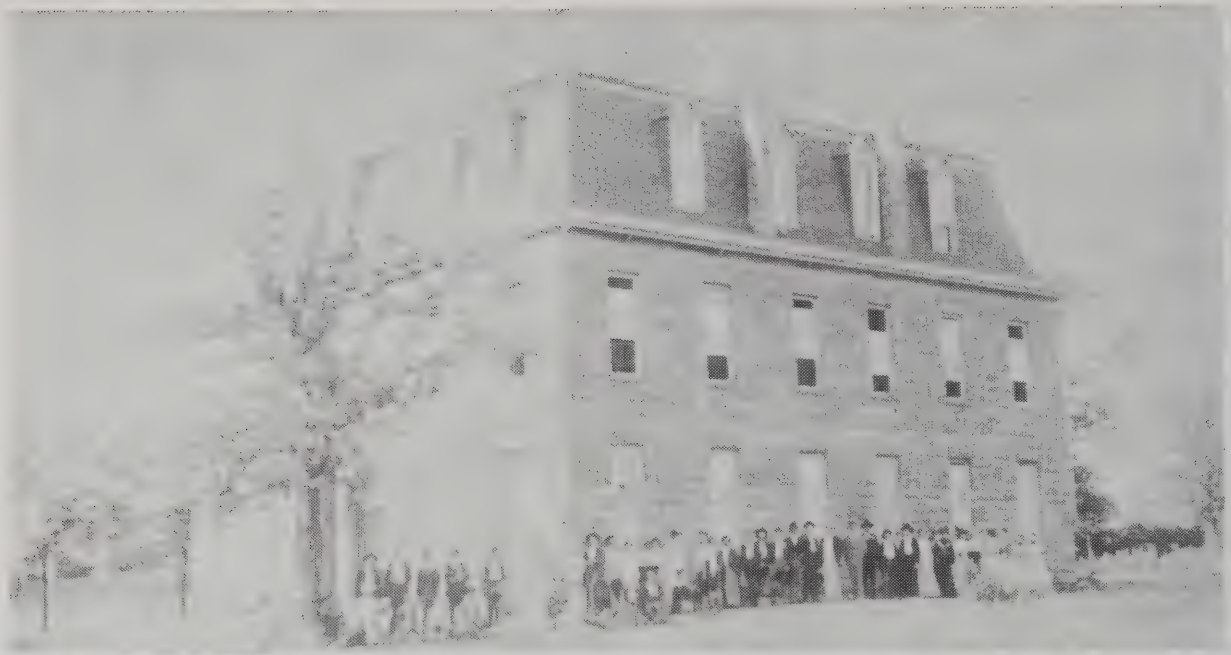
Stampedes were not uncommon during the spring drives. Various things would cause a stampede; electric storms were dreaded by all drivers. Several tell of a stampede of a herd of cattle camped on Panther Creek in Montague County. This was caused by a cowboy's firing at a panther that was trying to get fresh beef off a wagon in the dead of night. After the cattle were rounded up the next morning the cowboys remarked that they would rather cross "Big Red" on a rise than to camp on a creek with panthers.

With the herds switching to the western trail which crossed the river at Doan's Crossing, another change came about in the county. Several men and some cattle companies began to accumulate land; and by the early eighties, there were some rather large ranches, and homesteaders began to take land by pre-emption all over the county.

THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD

In 1882 we see the advent of the first railroad in the county, the Fort Worth and Denver City, which followed to a great extent the route of the Santa Fe Expedition. The coming of this road brought into existence two new towns, Bowie and Sunset. According to a postal map of Texas in 1885, the following towns having post offices were in existence in the county: Sunset, Bowie, Uz, Forestburg, Hardy, Dye, Saint Jo, Duxberry, Red Bud, Illinois Bend, Eagle Point, Spanish Fort, Red River Station, and Montague. Adora City, which had been shown on the map of 1874, was not shown.

In 1887 the Gainesville and Henrietta Western Railroad was laid from Gainesville, Texas, to Henrietta and Wichita Falls, later becoming a branch of the M K & T Railroad. Then in the early nineties the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific was built through the county. Ringgold and Stoneburg came into being along the Rock Island and Bonita, Nocona, and Belcherville along the M K & T. The coming of the railroads as always brought about a great change. Great numbers of people began to move in; the new towns along the right-of-way of the railroads began to grow; and many of the older settlements passed from existence. Red River Station, Eagle Point, and Red Bud ceased to exist, and it was the families from these villages together



Top Picture: This was Nocona's second school building, showing the summer normal class 1898. Rock for this school came from south of Nocona, the lime came from the old kilns on the Maxwell ranch.

Bottom Picture: Harmony school 1908. Trustees were: T. R. Copeland, H. A. Etter, and J. B. Ritchie. Teacher Margaret Watson. Students kneeling, l. r.: Arthur Carpening, J. J. Ritchie, Leon Helm, Lester Helm, Charlie Melton. Second Row: Lena Stewart, Ila Stephens, Lala Ritchie, Pearl Carpening, Georgia Copeland, Cardie Short, Bell Short (teacher), Hazel Melton, Elsie Copeland. Third Row: Lonnie Stewart, Carl Etter, Claude Etter, Ester Carpening, Allie Stephens, Elmer Melton, Fred Short, Clarence Helm, Charlie Short, Hubert Copeland, Mercer Copeland. Fourth Row: Melton Helm, Lon Helm, Heil Copeland, Mary Carpening, Addie Melton, Cleo Stephens, Sina Cantrell, Ethel Copeland, Cora Cantrell, and Beylah Ritchie.

Marshall Pipe and Supply Co.

J. W. MARSHALL, Owner

NOCONA, TEXAS

P. O. Box 43

Telephone 427

with families from Spanish Fort that began the town of Nocona. Duxberry became Bónita; and Montague, which was not to have the advantage of a railroad, began to decline in population.

What has happened to many of the small towns and settlements that were a part of the early history of this county is well known today. With the coming of the railroads, some of the ranch lands were divided into blocks of 160 acres, or more, and sold to settlers and by 1900 there were around

20,000 people in the county with by far a greater percentage thereof living on small farms. Cotton was to be king for a while. Cattle will be king again.

Thus passed frontier Montague County, an area of Texas known to early explorers and to the thousands of trail drivers as one of the most beautiful spots in the Southwest.

COPYRIGHT 1958

HOW FORESTBURG WAS NAMED

Forestburg was originally called Horn Hill, but was later changed to Forest Hill because of its location in an evergreen grove of live oaks. Later it was changed to Forestburg because of another town of the same name. Austin Perryman, Wash Williams, and a Mr. Morris were the men who named the town.

Its first settlement was in the early 1850's. Some of the first settlers were Bob Clark, Mr. Long, Parkills, Barnes, J. A. Taylor, Austin Perryman, Levi Perryman, the Singleterrys, Poyners, Roberts (father of Van Roberts who was killed by the Indians), Abner Riddles, Manfield Estes, Levi Blankenship, John Steadham, Jim Box, Grants, and Bowers.

The first settlers arrived here in various ways. Some came by sleds, ox carts, wagons, and horse back.

The first houses were built of logs, The first lumber was brought from Sherman. It was the nearest trading center from which sugar, coffee, and a few luxuries of life were obtained.

The first store was built of logs by a man named Dave Hegler.

The first school in Montague County was built of logs at Forestburg. One of the first teachers was Garrett Alredge, a one-legged man. Some of the old settlers remember an amusing incident of him whipping the boys from recess until dinner for going swimming.

The first church house to be built was the Church of Christ.

Some old timers recall Mrs. Billy McGee saying that her father, Mr. Coombs, brought the first gin machinery from Tarrant County in 1867, by ox cart. She also stated after a wedding or celebration of any kind, the boys would carry her father's circle saw around and beat on it. This could be heard for miles. Also the boys would build rail fences around the stores at night, making it necessary to remove them before the store could be entered.

The only form of entertainment was log rolling and house raisings.

The first people to be buried in the Perryman cemetery were a Morris baby and some people named Bull and Hood.

Fort Bingham - - somewhere in 1850's. Little is

known about the old fort that was located on Bingham Creek about 4 miles southeast of Forestburg.

Old timers recall hearing their parents talk of the water mill on the creek and the old guide tree, a huge cotton wood on the hill. This tree could be seen a long way. It was a sign to guide them to the fort. This fort was used to protect the settlers during Indian raids. It was used as headquarters for Indian scouts and Texas rangers. A strong picket fence made of split logs enclosed the buildings. A trench was dug to the creek so the occupants could obtain water without being exposed to Indian arrows.

One of the Texas Rangers stationed at the fort was Captain F. M. Totty. He was a civil engineer and surveyed the site of Montague for the Court house. Captain Totty died January 31, 1884, and was buried in the old Bean graveyard on Denton Creek. Frank Totty, of Mobeetie, Texas, a grandson of the Captain, has the diary of the Captain's wife. They cover a period of twenty-two years. In these diaries she gives a day by day account of the weather, births, marriages and deaths of all the family, and the neighbors.

In 1883 she tells of the whole settlement being sick and dying with the fever.

In 1885 she moves to Forestburg "to get out of the mesquitos." She tells of a crowd of 500 people attending a meeting held by Brother Hodges at the fine new tabernacle in Forestburg.

Other early day businessmen - - Coombs built the first gin which was later sold to a man named Gideon, who added a flour mill. John Black built a sawmill on the hill near the present school house.

Alf Alberts, Doc Dill, and Marion Walker were blacksmiths.

Wade Adkins and Pulleum ran a dry goods store. John Bowers and Billy Wilson were early day store keepers. Also Dick Ricketts and Nick Barrett kept the store.

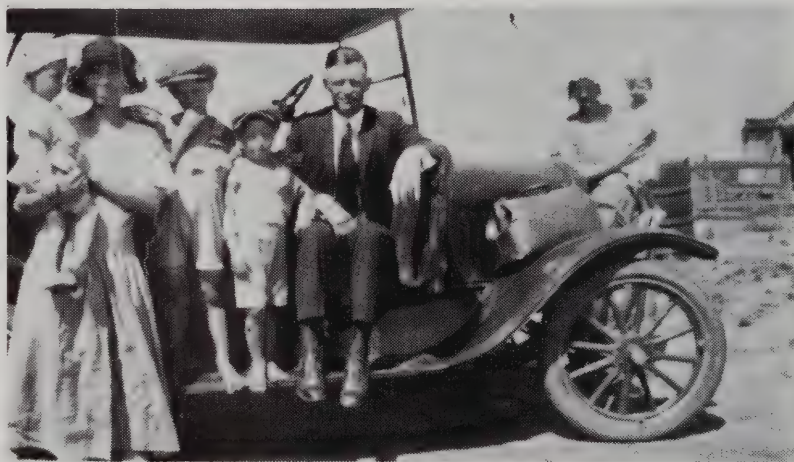
Mr. Dowel, and Bob Marteen ran a saloon on the east side of town.

Early day school teachers were Professor Frost, John Cherryholmes, Prof. Robinson, Cole and Raglan. Also Miss Kinsey, who later became the wife of E. H. Medley, one of Forestburg's druggists.



State Senator Wayne Wagon seller in 1951, the most gifted orator in the Senate of Texas. He was Montague County's only State Senator in the First Hundred Years. Fate stopped his career at the very beginning. Senator Wagon seller was 34 years old when killed in a car accident near Fort Worth, Texas August 13, 1955. He is buried in the State Cemetery at Austin, Texas.

The Amos Warren Wagon seller family on a visit across Red River in 1925. From left, Billy Kent in his mother's arms, I. B., Wayne, and Amos. Amos Wagon seller taught for 30 years in the rural schools of Montague County.



WAGONSELLER'S FRUIT FARM AND GIFT SHOP

Located on the Fort Worth Highway
Half Way from Bowie to Fruitland

I. B. WAGONSELLER, Owner

Proud We Lived In Montague County
The First Hundred Years

Social and Civic Clubs Have Brought Culture and Progress

During the past century of progress in Montague county, clubs have played a very important role in the progress and welfare. Without these clubs cultural interest and child welfare programs would have not come to the county.

Individuals make clubs, clubs mean teamwork, which grind out progress very slowly, and all club members deserve the congratulations of the citizens of Montague county.

Thursday Club, Bowie

Organized in 1902, this club is one of the early pioneer organizations. It was state Federated the same year, and joined the general Federation in 1914.

Bowie, was a little town in 1902, when this group of women with courage, perseverance and a fixed purpose, started out to accomplish, a feat yet unheard of. There first battle was in their homes where their husbands had to be convinced that women had a right to search for knowledge, and to band themselves together for a common purpose, that of doing good for others. The men folks of those days felt that the home would be bankrupt, gossip would run riot, and general disorder would prevail and that the home would go to the dogs, if women formed organizations.

Transportation was a problem, women wore long dresses streets were not paved, and the horse and buggy was the only means of transportation. Few women harnessed the horses. Not a single member boasted of an automobile in those days.

During the years this club has had a very diversified interests, they have studied modern drama, music, art and architecture, history, government, legal status of women and parliamentary law, they have studied Shakespeare's plays, Literary digest, Stoddard's lectures. They have had entertainment and special days. Their civic work has had a prominent place in their agenda, they have never failed to answer the call on a worthwhile project.

They have made numerous contributions and worked on all types of projects during three wars. They have helped bring cultural programs to Bowie, and assisted with the development of the county fair.

Mrs. D. Calaway has been a member of this club for 57 years, and several have 45 and 50 year memberships.

Mrs. W. R. Potter served as president of the Texas Federation clubs.

Charter members were, Mrs. W. V. Bailey, Mrs. G. H. Carpenter, Mrs. T. C. Phillips, Mrs. J. A. Graham, Mrs. D. Calaway, Miss Mattie Norman, Mrs. A. E. Thomas, Mrs. George Slaughter, Miss Ida Moore, Mrs. T. P. Evans, Mrs. J. L. Rudy, Mrs. J. B. Irons, Mrs. O. L. Thomas, Miss Mae James, and Mrs. H. B. Wilhelm.

Present members are; Mesdames, Scott Avery, D. Calaway, T. Roy Coffield, C. Y. Cosby, C. C. Culp, G. W. Curlee, A. W. Cline, F. J. Dixon, Stanley, Elkins, L. C. Foster, C. W. Gant, Jesse Givens, J. B. Hunt, F. Martin, M. B. Powell, R. D. Sanders, Claude Scott, P. J. Scott, Walter Slaughter, George Slaughter, and Grace Perkins.

Associate members; Mesdames, A. J. Allen, Cecil Allen, Whitmel Coffield, E. W. Dadley, Wilbur Morgan, W. R. Potter, Tandy Welsh.

Past Presidents, Mesdames, T. G. Phillips, G. S. Lawrence, J. P. Magee, J. A. Graham, H. Karlesberg, J. H. Matthews, M. F. Allen, W. R. Potter, W. A. Philpott, W. T. Coffield, D. D. Calaway, C. Y. Cosby, George Barry, George Slaughter, J. B. Hunt, N. G. Davis, R. G. Cady, A. J. Allen, C. W. Coffield, D.

Warren, J. A. Brite, Cecil Allen, F. J. Dixon, Wilbur Morgan, Walter Coffield, I. H. McVicker, C. Grant, Walter Claughton, G. Curlee, Roy Sanders.

Thursday Literary Club, Nocona

This club was organized in April 1924 and was federated in 1925.

Charter members were; Mesdames, B. E. Anderson, Nell Addison, W. J. Boudry, Roy Berry, Frank Berry, J. G. Clark, R. B. Clark, N. W. Crain, A. R. McElreath, T. H. Field, D. G. Gardner, W. E. Justin, W. B. Lewis, Clark A. Hood, G. W. Humphreys, Glenn Hooker, A. D. Lunn, Cad McCall, D. S. Paine, A. V. Peterson, W. O. Reynolds, F. B. Shropshire, G. M. Utt and T. B. Wilkes. Club object; Mutual improvement of its members and promotion of literary culture and historic interest.

Club Motto; In small things liberty, in large things unity, in all things charity.

Past presidents; Mesdames, B. E. Anderson, J. A. Fooshee, G. W. Humphreys, W. J. Boudry, Frank Berry, Cadmus McCall, Joe Benton, C. A. Hood, A. D. Lunn, Glenn Hooker, D. G. Gardner, Jubert Janeway, A. W. Karrenbrock, John Wood, F. L. Perry, Earl Fitts, A. N. Arveson, G. H. Fooshee, A. W. Coleman and John Womble.

The club sponsored the organization of the "Maids and Matrons" club which included among its charter members the following daughters; Lelia and Clara Crain, Mary Nell McCall, Mary Alexander, Sue Gardner, Polly Wilkes, Frances Boudry, Mary Fooshee, and Virginia Hood.

Among the present membership are those who have served in every office in the club.

During the 34 years the club has been organized the study courses have been interesting and educational and the hostesses have entertained and cultivated lasting friendships.

Bowie High School Band

Was organized in 1934. George Rucker was band director and had 23 students. The first president of band parents association was Mrs. Homer B. Latham. The band was first supported by the Lions club, the city of Bowie and the band parents. In the past few years the school board and the band parents have accepted the responsibility.

In 1951 Glen Cunningham became band director, which now consist of beginners, juniors and senior bands with an enrollment of over 200 students.

Saint Jo Art Club

Was organized on June 19, 1952 with seven charter members they were, Mesdames, D. H. Mitchell, president; Walter Hoover, vice president, Sam Roach, secretary; J. L. Lynch, reporter; Alene Schmitt, Manda Martin, and Veda Brogden.

Although the club has never had over 12 members, it has been very active having met once each month, have held five art festivals and six field days. Members of the club have entered the Bowie street exhibit and the Nocona art show.

Green Thumb Garden Club, Bowie

Organized on July 6, 1955 with 12 energetic home makers, they were Mesdames, K. W. Shoemaker, B. H. Roberts, Jack Candle, Truman Edwards, J. C. Hendrix, Cecil Ice, John Kibler, Ralph McClintock, Herman Moore, James Feard, Paddy Widlake, and Weldon Crim.

The ladies had a common interest to learn all they could about flowers, how to raise them, display and arrange them to make their homes and yards more attractive.

The first president was Mrs. Truman Edwards,



School at Red River Station in 1899. L. C. Stouder of Nocona taught this school in 1899, 1900 and 1901. During the years of 1902 and 03 he taught at Dixie. He returned to Red River Station in 1904, but quit to accept an appointment as the first rural mail carrier out of the Nocona Post Office. Mr. Stouder is pictured with the group.

Great Public Sale of Town Lots and Farming Lands

WEDNESDAY, July 13, 1887

BELCHER

ADVANTAGES OF BELCHER.

TERMS OF SALE OF LOTS.

ADVANTAGES OF MONTAGUE COUNTY.

TERMS OF SALE OF LANDS.

Bottom Picture: This is an original town plot and sale bill for the sale of lots and farm land at Belcher-ville. It grew to be a thriving town with 35 stores, two school districts. Today it remains the smallest incorporated town in the state of Texas. The Post Office has been closed, and very little remains of the once prosperous town.

Congratulations to Montague County

WICHITA FALLS CAFE EQUIPMENT COMPANY

Food Serving Equipment & Supplies for Restaurants,
Hotels, Schools, Soda Fountains, Institutions & Clubs
Janitors Supplies

EDGAR L. GIBBS, SETH CUNNINGHAM, Owners

1122 Scott Ave. Phone 723-2717 Wichita Falls

UNDERWOOD'S BAR-B-Q

CATERING SERVICE — CAFETERIA

BAR-B-Q TO GO

Southmoor Shopping Center
Jacksboro Highway

Phone 767-6877

Wichita Falls

who lead her club to a number of outstanding events, such as flower shows, workshops and recognition for an outstanding civic job in Bowie. Only four of the charter members are still members, but others have joined to help make this club a permanent fixture in Bowie.

Saint Jo P.T.A.

H. W. Guenther, superintendent of schools called a meeting of parents September 1921, while still located in the old school on the hill.

The purpose of the organization was outlined and Mrs. Mabel Ware was elected the first president, Carey Meek, treasurer, and Mrs. Temple Yarbough, secretary. Mrs. Roach and Mrs. George Pedigo were selected to stage a membership drive. In a short time they had more than a hundred members.

The association has met twice a month during school years since their organization and have helped secure 10 units credits during the first year.

Montague County Extension Club

Organized in 1932 the organization has done an outstanding job in helping farm women with their problems and provided easier ways to run a farm family. Regular meetings have provided better and more lasting friendships, with broad discussions on all subjects, and current events. Presidents have been, Mrs. Jim Henry, Mrs. J. L. Jameson, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. N. F. Sparks, Mrs. Louis Holland, Mrs. Mary Hudspeth, Mrs. John Doggs, Mrs. Glen Pribble, Mrs. Roy Dunbar, Mrs. W. R. Williams, Mrs. J. M. Leatherwood, Mrs. Wylie Roberts, Mrs. G. W. Self, Mrs. John Davis. County agents have been, Mrs. Marie Neff, Mrs. Hazel Price, Miss Ruth Farquhar, Miss Marie Wilson, Miss Opal Clayton, Miss Vinnie Mickey, Miss Eva Sue Merriitt, Mrs. LaRure Allison and Miss Reba Burright.

Bowie Chamber of Commerce

Was organized on January 21, 1893 with the following charter members, S. B. Hovey, G. F. Thomas, J. C. McCabe, M. J. Craig, Z. T. Lowrie, I. H. J. Hulme, G. W. Walthall, F. S. Williams, O. H. Pennock, Lucius A. McDonald, J. A. Kemp, Walt Worley, H. D. Rugeley, T. G. Worley, J. H. Matthews, Dave Davies, J. W. Garlington, W. G. Turner, Wade Atkins, T. C. Phillips, Joe M. Brown, H. G. Holman, and D. H. Sigmon.

They elected, J. H. Matthews, President; J. C. McCabe, first vice president, L. A. McDonald, Second Vice president, T. C. Phillips, treasurer, Dave Davis secretary, and Walt Worley, assistant secretary. The chamber has been an active organization since that date and have been responsible in getting many civic projects completed for Bowie.

Nocona Chamber of Commerce

Was granted a charter and incorporated by the state of Texas February 24, 1927. Under paragraph V it states "There shall be nine directors for this association and the following are hereby named as directors for the first year; A. T. Barrett, Cad McCall, Hugh Carson, B. E. Anderson, Theodore H. Ellis, Max Bernstein, G. D. Kilcrease, Julius L. Stelzer and J. A. Fooshee.

Past presidents have been; A. T. Barrett, W. J. Stone, T. B. Wilkes, J. R. Miller, Bob Flynt, G. W. Humphreys, A. Billings, Clarence Chandler, F. L. Perry, Glenn Wilson, Jesse D. Woods, W. L. Scott, Jimmie Bourland, Claude Wallace, A. N. Arveson, Lee Vaughan, J. D. McElhannon, Don C. Peterson, Lloyd Thompson, A. W. Williams, W. R. Robb, Grant Hoover, and Dr. H. B. Wallis.

Since its inception this organization has been actively engaged in civic projects for the welfare of the community. It has worked untiring in securing better roads and other projects to improve the economical conditions of the area.

The MacDowell Music Club, Bowie

This club was organized March 26, 1925, with 12 charter members; Mrs. J. L. Rudy and daughter, Inez; Mrs. Walter Evans and daughter, Rudy, Mrs. Harry Karlsberg; Miss Lillie Huff; Mrs. O. W. Watson, Mrs. G. O. Slougher, Mrs. George Barry and daughter, Lois Eastin; Mrs. Sam Heard and Mrs. C. S. Henderson.

First officers were; Miss Inez Rudy, President; Mrs. Harry Karlsberg, vice president; Miss Ruby Evans, recording secretary, Mrs. O. W. Watson, treasurer.

During the same year the club joined the, district, state and national federation of music clubs.

First public concert was presented during the Colorado to-the-gulf highway association meeting.

It has annual sponsored national music week, and one year presented a patriotic pageant in which representatives of all clubs participated.

An interesting visiting artist was Arthur Faguy-Cote, and his wife, from Mary Hardin Belton College.

During the year the club's activities have consisted of, purchasing baby grand piano, community concert series, twilight musicales, supported employment of public school music teacher, worked on civic projects such as county fair, parade, march of dimes, cancer, heart and Red Cross, youth center, swimming pool, scout hut, drives.

Presented two cantatas "Monahmin," and "Dawn and Spring." Each year one program is devoted to church music. Unusual programs have been all girl symphony, harp ensemble and one act opery, held reciprocity program with Henrietta Nevin Club and Wichita Falls, musicians club, has presented eight piano concerts during music week three different years.

Miss Inez Rudy, has served as district president, and state president for Texas federation music club for two years, member of board of directors on national, chairman of religious music education of national. She was presented with life membership by district.

Maids and Matrons Club, Bowie

Was organized September 26, 1918 at the home of Miss Jennie Donald, by a Thursday Club committee composed of Mesdames, D. Calaway, W. R. Potter, Paul Donald, and Miss Jettie Donald. Others present were Misses, Susette Meyer, Houston, Masters, Abney, Pickens and Potter. Added during the year, were; Mmes, Keys, Hodges, Luther Tucker, Minnie Hutchinson, Thurman Galaway, Lizzie Young, Harry McMillian, and Misses Allene Calaway, Annie Quisenberry, Katherine Thomas, and Helen Worley.

Purpose of the club was literary culture, better acquaintance, stimulation of intellectual development, benefit of organization, aid war work during WW I and WW II. Originally membership was 20, but later increased to 40. Selection of carnation for club flower, colors, green and white, motto "Better to do it than wish it done."

Club members have done an outstanding job in civic work, have cooperated with all worthwhile projects such as Montague county fair, youth drives, libraries, camp fire girls, parks, picnic area, have planted flowers to beautify the town.

Past presidents have been, Mesdames, Paul Donald, Lizzie Young, Steve Huff, Minnie Hutchinson, David Warren, Nell Cunningham, Chilton Ayres, D. B. Benson, H. T. Ayres, E. W. Wright, W. E. Benson, A. I. Davis, J. M. Crisp, D. H. Angove, L. J. Pirkey, Nell Cunningham, M. Thompson, G. L. Griffin, N. B. Gary, C. J. Dodswoth, G. A. Quisenberry, Paul Taliaferro, Hermith Wysong, E. P. Harris, W. R. Covey, Jack Slayden, J. Allen Spears, T. B. Coffield, Jack Bradley, Earl Cupples, L. E. Eakman, Herman Heard, Bill Hodges, and Misses, Inez Rudy, Susette Meyers, Estelle Miller, Ermytrude McNatt.



The dress in this picture was the wedding gown of Mrs. James Anderson, the mother of Mrs. James Reddy of Bowie. It was fashioned by a seamstress in New York state in 1881. Mrs. Anderson came to Montague County that year as the bride of the Rev. James Anderson, who had come to Saint Jo in 1876 to become the pastor of the Presbyterian church. The dress is well preserved.

Mrs. G. A. Quisenberry is standing by an antique organ that was purchased from the Catholic church in Montague when the new church was built and a new organ installed. This is an Estay and was made in 1842. It was used by the church for many years. It has a solid walnut cabinet and is in perfect condition. It has been refinished and electrified.

QUISENBERRY & SON

CUSTOM SLAUGHTERERS & PROCESSORS

Highway 81
TR-2-2601 Bowie, Texas

EVANS MOTOR CO.

YOUR FRIENDLY FORD DEALER

Bowie Texas

Carminati Grocery & Market

Established in 1926
Montague Texas

SLAUGHTER

DRUG COMPANY

Phone TRemont 2-2201 Bowie, Texas

Maids and Matrons Club, Nocona

Was organized August 1927, charter members were Mesdames, W. J. Stone, W. D. Hearn, R. E. Storey, Mary Peterson and Frances Flynt. The club's motto expressed its purpose, "Knowledge is the treasure of which study is the key," its object is a united effort toward peace, charity, equity and higher education.

Past presidents are, Mesdames, Mary F. Peterson, W. L. Scott, W. J. Stone, R. E. Storey, W. D. Hearn, J. V. Daugherty, R. E. Flynt, J. W. McCall, N. R. Beal, Roy Weiss Jr., Paul Brand, E. B. Keller, H. D. Read, John Lindsey, Missess, Virginia Wood, Isabelle Allen, Anita Leonard.

Members of the club have participated in all civic affairs to help promote the welfare of Nocona.

Montague County Fair

Is an outgrowth of the Bowie flower show and fair held November 3, 1922 and 23. Bowie's federation of women's clubs sponsored the project after visiting the Nocona community fair. Entries consisted of, flowers, plants, chrysanthemums, agricultural, home canned products, cooking fancy work and sewing and art exhibits.

Citizens donated cash for prizes. A parade with prizes for decorated cars, trucks and floats opened the fair.

The first officers were, Mesdames, Paul Donald, president; C. Y. Cosby, vice president; John B. Hunt, secretary; C. C. Hutchinson, treasurer, and S. L. Greenwood, correspondence secretary.

Rev. F. O. Miller, representing the chamber of commerce asked five men and five women to meet to select officers and organize the Bowie fair. Officers elected were; Mesdames, Paul Donald, D. Calaway, I. H. Angove, E. W. Wright, John Adams.

The first fair was held in the fall in the old armory with livestock being displayed in the wagon yard next door. When the Civilian Conservation Corps camps were moved, the material from their buildings was used to build the fair grounds in Pelham park. The work was done by the WPA under the supervision of the Lions club.

In 1942 the Bowie Fair was changed to the Montague county fair. G. "Doc" Jackson was president, Mrs. Ed Jones and Nathan B. Gary, were vice presidents.

The fair has grown each year with many new features being added, such as band festivals, queen pageants, rodeos and carnivals.

Blue Bonnet Study Club, Saint Jo

Was organized in the home of Miss Sara Meador, in August 1932. It was agreed that the membership would be limited to 20. In 1937 the club was federated and became a member of the first district.

Some of its outstanding projects were a rental library, which was later presented to the school. The camp fire project was under the club sponsorship until 1956. The club took a very active part in getting Camp Letoli built north of Saint Jo. Other projects are cancer, tuberculosis, march of dimes, heart Bald Knob cross, penny art, and musical art drives. Latin scholarships, salvation army and Indian missions.

Each year the club goes on record to presevate and repair the Boggess home as a historical museum. Past presidents: Miss Sara Meador, Mesdames, W. L. Scott, C. F. Phillips, W. E. Meador, W. J. Collier, Maxie Dill, Dolly Harris, G. D. Pedigo, R. W. Huchtons, M. L. Drabing, W. E. Scott, S. T. Meador, V. W. Redman, James Woodruff, C. C. Redman, H. D. Field Jr., R. W. Donnell, A. D. Schmitt, Howard Mays, Lester Victor, M. A. Travis, Norman Rushing, C. D. Meador, J. C. Embry, C. W. Yetter Jr.

Present Roster; Mesdames, Murray Allman, Loyal Burchield, Jerry Dellaney, Maxie Dill, R. W. Don-

nell, J. C. Embry, R. W. Huchtons, C. D. Meador, W. E. Meador, C. C. Redman, V. W. Redman, W. E. Scott, Lester Victor, James Woodruff, Clyde Yetter Jr., E. W. Yoder.

Mrs. V. W. Redman and Mrs. James Woodruff have served on board of first District.

The Chisholm Trail Riding Club

Was organized December 31, 1953. The main object of the club was to advertise Nocona and the Chisholm Trail round-up.

The first officers were, Howard Hudgens, Captain; Harold Crow, first Lieutenant, and Roy Fitts, second Lieutenant. Mrs. Hardy Seay, secretary-treasurer, and Jeff S. Henderson, publicity and finance.

Uniforms was selected and the Nocono Boot company was given the order for the chaps. The clubs first appearance was at the Southwestern exposition and Fat Stock Show in Fort Worth. Their colorful appearance won popular acclaim and they immediately received numerous invitations to appear at rodeos and celebrations all over Texas and Oklahoma.

Club members decided to secure a flag from every state in the United States, and letters were written to each of the 48 governors asking if they would donate a flag. The response was not too good, but after four years the club finally did secure a flag from each of the states. They carry these in parades, and now have the slogan "Carrying the Flags of Freedom."

Other officers of the club were Billy Jo Billings, mess sergeant; Chris Neeld, Sgt.-at-arms, Lester Pearce, Supply sergeant, Pete Skinner, Lesley Combs and Jodie Keck, wranglers.

American Legion Post 220, Nocona

It was more than ten years after World War I that the first American Legion post was established in Nocona. The charter was granted on April 16, 1929 with the following veterans signing, W. H. Mathis, True Strong, G. H. Fooshee, F. M. Jones, E. D. Pennal, Howard A. Neath, W. E. Howard, Hugh Carson, H. M. Wells, Roy Hart, R. A. McMahon, J. M. Clay, A. Billings, H. M. Hamilton, W. A. Elliott, Otis L. Kiel, Lyle Van Vleck, Tom L. Walker, T. J. Groom, Narley Stencil, M. G. Goings, S. B. Stallcup, F. H. Milson. The name for the post was selected to include three men who had lost their lives on the battlefields, they were Otto Rolls, a member of the 36th division, Claude Hudspeth, also a member of the 36th division, and Roy Harris a member of the 90th division. The first charter was cancelled in 1932 from lack of interest.

The second charter was dated February 8, 1933 with the following signatures, James E. Terrell, John C. Reeves, George T. Shackelford, Ernest W. Perkins, Jesse D. Woods, True Strong, McKinley Tharsher, Berley Stansell, Smith G. Admire, F. L. Perry, A. E. Parson, E. E. Pryor, Tom L. Walker, Bryon Reese.

The post has been active in civic affairs and have sponsored baseball teams, and perhaps their most popular event, an annual turkey shoot.

Two members have held district offices both vice commanders for the 13th district. They were N. L. Whitten and Jeff S. Henderson.

American Legion Post 252, Bowie

Records of this post have been lost, and it was impossible to publish a record other than to say, that they have been very active and have been of great help to the civic enterprises of Bowie. During the centennial year the Commander of the 13th district comes from Bowie, he is R. L. Clouer, a rural mail carrier who lives at Newport.

The only other American Legion in the county was located in Forestburg, but its charter was cancelled because of lack of interest.

American Legion Auxiliary Post 220, Nocona

The first regular meeting of the organization was held April 20, 1935, with the following being elected



Top Picture: Ellis-Williford Department Store, when they opened in Nocona in 1917. In the picture is T. H. Ellis, Mike Lerner, W. H. Williford and Ula Morgan.

First Methodist Church in Nocona was organized in 1890, building constructed in 1895, and was torn down in 1908. Church shown in this picture was built in 1913, and it was torn down in 1937 to build the church now on the site.



FRANK'S MOTOR SALES

OLDSMOBILE — PONTIAC — G.M.C.

Appliances and Automobile Accessories
R. F. Griffith, Owner

Nocona Texas

Ellis-Williford Department Store

Established 1926

Mrs. T. E. Ellis — W. H. Williford
Nocona Texas

Nocona Independent Lumber Company

Your only 100% home owned and operated
Lumber Company

Nocona W. R. Robb, Owner-Manager Texas

Merchants Grocer Co.

WHOLESALE GROCERS

Bowie Texas

officers, Mrs. Harry Swope, president; Mrs. M. K. Thrasher, vice president; Mrs. A. B. Kelley, secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Swope moved away and Mrs. Thrasher served out her term. Mrs. C. W. Haggerton was elected vice president. Those attending the first meeting were Mesdames, H. M. Wells, B. A. Kelly, W. E. Howard, A. Neath, R. F. Arnold, Roy Hart, G. H. Fooshee, Olin Carmichael, Joe Thomason, Fred Jones. The second meeting also considered a charter meeting was attended by Mesdames W. H. Mathis, R. A. McMahon, C. W. Haggerton, Tom Hughes, Guy J. Brown, Frank A. Wood, Ruby Sappington, Harry Swope, Tobe Thompson, Grady Anderson, Clifford Kene, and Miss Mackolyn Thrasher.

The auxiliary reorganized September 8, 1947 and the new charter was issued on October 22, 1947, with the following members, Mesdames, Margaret Adkins, Inez Wooten, Cecil Stokes, Agnes Prathar, Ethel Garner, Beulah Wayland, Zona Bell Anderson, Jonnie Patterson, Ruby Waters, Theulia Whitten, Maudie Lee Covington, Ruby Baker, Lois Womack, Peggy Womack, Anita Quinn, Ida Lou Gaydon, Lola Thrasher, Ray Ruth Rice, Annie Weaver.

Past president, Margaret Adkins, Annette Manley, Ethel Garner, Mattie Powell, Ruth Munday, and Annie Weaver.

Each year the club sells poppies and have helped with charity cases, gift boxes to veterans in hospitals, and helped raise the money to construct the Veterans Memorial building in Nocona.

American Legion Auxiliary Post 252, Bowie

Charter members were Mesdames, W. R. Black, Gladys's Shoemaker, E. W. Wright, Opal Dobkins, Paul Donald, H. Williamson, J. P. Montgomery, Cecil Dobkins, E. M. Stallings, R. Allred, Wilbur Morgan, W. O. Green, M. A. Metcalf, Elva Strong. The auxiliary was organized in July 1921 and the charter was issued November 1925.

Past presidents; Mesdames, Paul Donald, E. M. Stallings, Cecil Dobkins, Lynn Boyd, J. H. Garlington, H. K. Davis, W. F. Robison, Charles E. Cox, Ethel Taylor, Ruby Randall, T. J. Langford, Lewis Hancock, Dorothy House, Wilma Hill, Cleta Fryar, Helen Hankins, Wilma Burge, Annie Kranow, Seba Foster, Reba Stanfield, Christine Garrett, and Miss Lola Dobkins.

This organization has actively supported all civic projects and have helped legionnaires with their projects.

Saint Jo Garden Club

Was organized in the home of Mrs. C. D. Meador under the supervision of Mrs. Grady Sloan of Norman, Oklahoma, with a limited membership of 20.

The annual chrysanthemum show has been held since 1911, and since 1946 has been the leading project. The club object was to promote civic improvements, study flower culture and arrangements. The club is a member of the district, state and national clubs.

In 1936 the club planted the plaza with evergreens and flowers and has kept it up since, replacing plants and shrubs. In 1940 the club assisted in planting a red bud trail through Montague county. They constructed attractive signs on rock pillars at the entrance of town on highway 82.

Mrs. S. T. Meador is national flower show judge, and Mesdames, T. C. Davis, C. E. Cunningham, J. C. Donnell and Allen Huston are preparatory judges.

Past Presidents, Mesdames, C. D. Meador, S. T. Meador James Woodruff, D. C. Berry Jr., V. W. Clayton, Walter Collier, C. E. Cunningham, T. C. Davis, Maxie Dill, J. C. Donnell, J. H. Embry, H. D. Field Jr., J. H. Lauderdale, M. A. Travis, Tom White. Charter members still active, Mmes, T. C. Davis, C. E. Cunningham, James Woodruff, C. D. Meador, and Miss Lelah Wiley.

The Crape Myrtle Garden Club, Nocona

February 27, 1930, the Thursday Literary club

called a meeting to organize a garden club, that was federated in 1912.

At the second meeting the name was selected and Mrs. F. B. Shropshire was elected president. Charter members, Mesdames, J. E. Fleming, True Strong, T. U. Alverson, J. R. Miller, S. T. Campbell, A. D. Linn, C. A. Hood, R. R. Alexander, E. P. Daniel, W. F. Leonard Sr., W. J. Bowdry, M. M. Gilbert, Frank Berry, C. E. Cogswell, J. A. Fooshee, John Wood, and J. K. Alexander.

The purpose was to stimulate knowledge and love of gardening among amateurs, and aid in protection of native trees, plants, and birds, encourage civic planting.

In the early years the club offered prizes of plants to best tended yards. In 1935, the club planted trees on the school yard and assisted in a memorial service for Mrs. Cad McCall. A tree with a bronze marker was planted on North Ward school grounds.

Past presidents; Mesdames, F. B. Shopshire, C. E. Cogswell, W. J. Bowdry, Gertrude Mitchell, D. G. Gardner Sr., N. R. Beal, B. R. Hutchinson, L. R. Surber, H. M. Flowers, Lee Martin, A. V. Grant, J. C. Hynds, B. R. Grigsby, P. M. Martin, Mrs. Harvey Hill.

Amity Club, Bowie

Was organized in the home of Mrs. G. A. Quisenberry on September 22, 1952, and federated the same year.

Charter members; Mesdames, John Parish, Henry Deaver, W. F. Schwenn, Millard L. Massey, Joe B. Monroe, Jack Bell, George Hoeldtke, Pat Bradley, Beno Collins Jr. Ralph Porter Milton Kresse Jr., Dallas Hutson, Paul Gray, H. R. Krauss, J. G. Pickett, Gordon E. Heard, Misses Dorothy M. Garrett, Mary E. Latham, Henryette Sands, Treva Taylor.

First officers; Mesdames, John Parish, president; Gordon Heard, first vice president; Miss Henryette Sands, second vice president; Danny Deaver, recording secretary; Miss Pat Bradley, corresponding secretary; Milton Kresse, treasurer; Beno Collins, parliamentarian; Dallas Hutson, historian and reporter, club's sponsor, G. A. Quisenberry.

Four years the club's float has won first prize in the fair parade. They have been active in civic affairs and donated a stop light to high school drivers education class. They won first prize on their yearbook in district. Three members have served on the district board. Miss Nancy Clark is serving as a director of Junior women's clubs first district.

Past presidents; Mesdames, John Parish, Thomas Ayres, Danny Deaver, James Henderson, N. E. Blake, Glenn Cunningham, and Miss Nancy Clarke, the club has grown from 20 members to 30 active, 3 associate and 10 on the waiting list.

Rotary Club, Bowie

Received its charter October 27, 1923. The Wichita Falls club sponsored the Organization. Charter members, Rev. C. L. Altfather, William A. Ayres, Ira F. Bradley, Edward F. Capers, Abel W. Cline, T. Prentice Evans, Dr. Milford W. Golladay, Edward A. Hays, Howard W. Kuhn, Ferdinand F. Miller, Charles A. Pruden, George O. Slaughter, Enos M. Stallings, Dr. E. W. Wright and W. Sherwood Young. The first officers, Abel W. Cline, president; Dr. E. W. Wright; vice president, Charles A. Pruden, secretary; Arthur Aures, treasurer; Sherwood Young, sgt.-at-arms. Among the outstanding project was a dairy heifer project started in 1946, and organization of Bowie youth center in 1954. They have sent boys and girls to boys and girls state, they sent 10 boys to Texas A&M for the farmers short course, sponsored two teams in youth summer baseball program. Sponsored the Decatur Rotary club.

Past president; Abe Cline, Elbert Wright, Charlie Pruden, Enos Stallings, Dana Benson, John Lawson, Ira Bradley, Robert Burgess, Roy Coffield, Prentice



Top Picture: Early aerial photograph of Nocona, showing the old Virginia Hotel just across the street from the Post Office. This was one of the first Hotels in Nocona, and will be remembered by most Pioneers.

Bottom Picture: Delivery vehicles, used by the Wichita Times and Record News in the early twenties. The horse had not been forgotten. Note the horseshoe nailed on the box of the motorcycle. The man riding the motorcycle is George B. Botkin.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE PIONEERS OF
MONTAGUE COUNTY
From

Midwestern University

WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

Building the Foundation of
A Better Tomorrow

Dr. Travis A. White, President

Wichita Daily Times
and
Wichita Falls Record News

MORNING — AFTERNOON — SUNDAY

WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

Evans, Bettis Coffield, Dan Martin, C. J. Dodsworth, Lee Henchey, Henry Stephens, Foster Robinson, Henry T. Ayres, Walter Alexander, Olin Watson, Paul Boedeker, Glynne Griffin, Donald Mann, Fred Raborn Sr., Uriel Randolph, Clarence Newsome, Horace Turns, Roy V. Garrett, Claude Thompson, Lynn Garlington, Dr. Harry Squyres, Charles Coffield, Harlow Tibbetts.

Rotary Club, Nocona

Was organized February 3, 1925. Wichita Falls was the sponsoring club. Charter members were, M. Bernstein, Hugh Carson, C. E. Collins, E. P. Daniels, R. E. Fletcher, G. H. Fooshee, J. D. Foster, D. J. Gribbon, S. T. Humphreys, G. D. Kilcrease, J. W. Lehman, G. A. McElroy, J. R. Miller, J. A. Rice, Dr. A. A. Strippling, T. B. Wilkes. The officers elected were, T. B. Wilkes, president; J. W. Lehman, vice president, George McElroy, secretary, M. Bernstein, treasurer, Jack Foster, Sgt.-at-arms.

The club built its own building in 1926 and have held meetings there since, they also rent it to the Lions club.

Past presidents, T. B. Wilkes, Hugh Carson, W. J. Stone, S. T. Humphreys, True Strong, Wade Bond, O. V. Beck, Basil Gist, John Steck, Byron Reese, James Daugherty, Jesse D. Woods, F. L. Perry, Jess Thompson, Frank Mood, Bill Shellburg, W. H. Williford, Harry Whitman, R. E. Storey, B. R. Hutchins, Doyle Powell, W. L. Scott, Glenn Wilson, J. H. Hogland, Lee Vaughan, R. A. Major, Glenn Williamson, G. P. Barrett, George Stewart, W. T. Tompkins, D. G. Gardner Jr., Glenn Etheredge, John Major, Grant Hoover. Club secretaries, E. P. Daniel, J. A. Messer, W. J. Stone, J. P. Janeway, F. L. Perry, W. J. Steck, J. D. Woods, Jack Miller, D. G. Gardner.

Nocona P.T.A.

Was organized in September 1909, as the Mother's club. Mrs. J. R. Inodrell was elected president; Mrs. J. A. Fooshee first vice president; Mrs. T. W. Williams, second vice president; Mrs. D. S. Paine, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Cad McCall, parliamentarian. Charter members were, Mesdames, W. N. Crain, W. D. Carmichel, R. B. Clark, Claud Glass, Pete Bonds, Olie Fladdis Sr., W. O. Reyndalls, Clark Crites, Louis Monning, W. J. Boudry, Julia E. Luker, N. M. Flynt, F. W. Williams, Bert Lewis, John Waldrip, H. J. Justin, C. E. Quillan, M. M. Kerns, Charles Glass, Annie Thurston, Croxton, J. D. Bromlett, C. A. Hood, J. G. Clark, W. S. Ball, and the officers.

In 1915 the name was changed to Parent Teachers Association, and became part of the state organization and later the national organization.

Past president, Mesdames, J. R. Inodrell, R. B. Clark, W. J. Boudry, W. N. Crain, W. B. Lewis, J. A. Fooshee, W. O. Reyndalls, C. A. Hood, J. C. Hoffman, Cad McCall, T. B. Wilkes, J. A. Fooshee, R. D. Stewart, H. D. Read, Love Strong, Clyde Howard, O. V. Beck, J. P. Janeway, B. R. Hughins, G. W. Humphreys, Dave Broyles, O. W. Coleman, J. S. Wood, James Daugherty, S. B. Stallcup, D. G. Gardner Jr., Humphrey Maddox, P. M. Martin, R. C. McCoy, Erwin May, H. H. Dodson. Other 1958 officers besides Mrs. Dodson were, Mrs. O. W. Ross, vice president; Mrs. W. E. Baker, secretary; Mrs. Charles A. Lindsey, treasurer, Mrs. I. H. Copeland, parliamentarian; Mrs. J. C. Rush, historian.

The club has been active in all school affairs and have done many worthwhile things, like furnishing drinking facilities, removal of litter from school grounds, helping in the purchase of band uniforms and others.

Saint Jo Optimist Club

On September 12, 1945, thirty-nine Saint Jo men attended a luncheon privately sponsored by two businessmen, E. E. Hayley and Clyde Husband. Plans for a civic club were formulated and 34 charter members were signed. Two weeks later the membership

had grown to sixty.

The Men's Luncheon Club met each Wednesday noon for the next twelve years and served the Saint Jo area as a combination civic club and chamber of commerce. The organization served as a clearing house for practically all major community projects. Many notable speakers appeared on programs at both regular meetings and annual banquets. W. E. Nunneley was the club's first president. Others who served the club were Roy Huchtons, H. D. Field, C. D. Meador, Ullis Burns, E. E. Hayley, Sam Pedigo, Clyde Yetter, W. E. Scott, Lester Victor, C. W. Thompson and D. C. Berry.

In August, 1957, the membership voted to affiliate with Optimist International. The charter was granted at a banquet in the Lodge at Camp Letoli with some one hundred Optimists and their wives present from Gainesville, Wichita Falls, Shreveport, Midland, Garland and Fort Worth. Lloyd E. Lake was the first president and he was succeeded by H. D. Field Jr. Hubert Sunderland is secretary-treasurer.

Bowie Jaycees

The Bowie Jaycees, is an organization of young men between the ages of 21 to 35 dedicated to leadership training and community service. The club was chartered with the Texas Junior Chamber of Commerce and the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce in December 1952. On May 10, 1953 it received its charter with the International Chamber.

Outstanding young men have served as officers of this organization. The past presidents of the club are Bob Patterson, Billy Neeld, Fred Raborn Jr., George Hoeltke, Dr. B. H. Roberts, H. J. Deaver Jr., and the present president Pete Guthrie.

Many members have become leaders in the community and county. Some of the offices held by Jaycees are as follows: school board member, scoutmaster, president of the Bowie chamber of commerce, city council member, county fair board members, county red cross board members, united fund members, and numerous others.

The Bowie Jaycees have aided and-or wholly responsible for many advancements in Bowie. Each year the Jaycees add to the towns Christmas by installing street decorations and Christmas tree. Jaycees are the publicity "getters" for Bowie by pushing and telling others about Bowie through its club achievements.

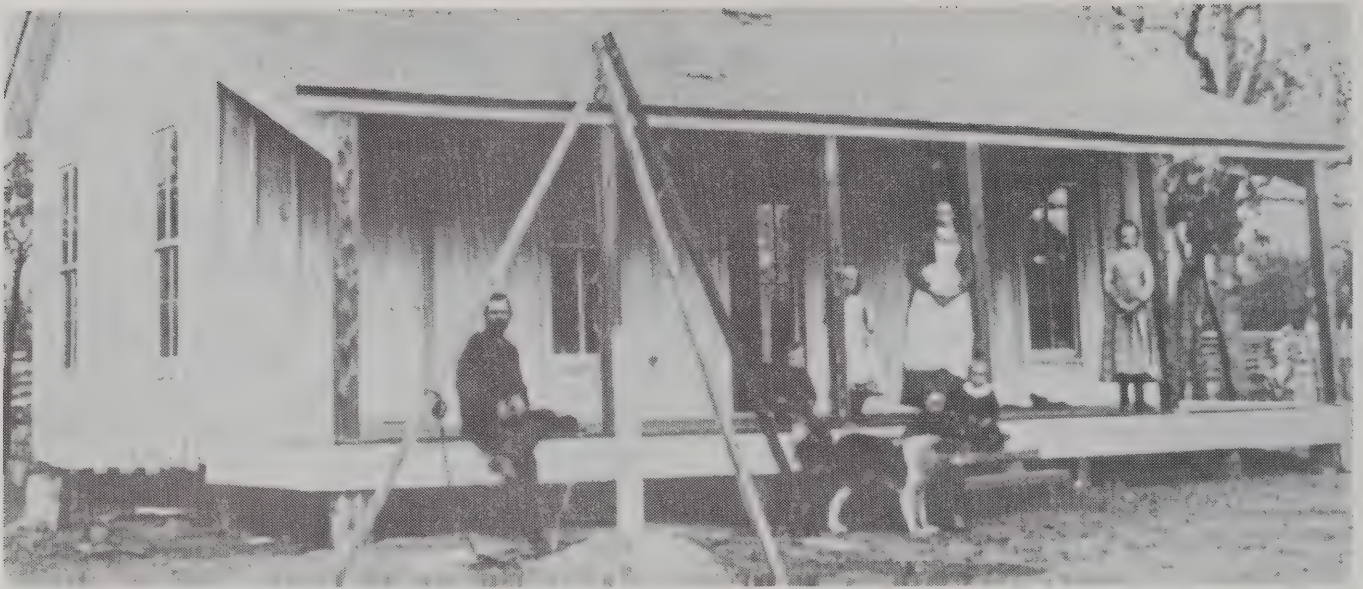
Roundup Club of Nocona

This social and study club was organized at the home of Mrs. Caddy McCall October 2, 1947, with the membership composed of 25 young matrons. Object of the club was for united effort toward intellectual and social advancement and higher civilization. Club flower is the chrysanthemum and colors are bronze gold and green.

Charter members were: Mesdames B. P. Burrage, Wayne Dow, R. B. Keilds, Henry Fenoglio, D. G. Gardner Jr., Kenneth Guinn, Jack Lesh, R. A. Major, C. S. McCall, Nick Owen, Paul Peters, L. S. Rhodes, Connally Simms, J. B. Stout, Joe Turner, John White and G. W. Williamson.

Past presidents: Mesdames McCall, Fenoglio, R. A. Major, D. C. Peterson, Dow, Guinn, J. W. Major, Gardner, H. W. Sunderland and Lloyd Thompson.

The club was federated the year it was organized. It has made donations for school musical instruments, contributed each year to the Goodfellows, sponsored March of Dimes for five years, improved City Club House, sent a Boy Scout and Camp Fire Girl to camp each year. They renovated and operated the Youth Center for three years, redecorated the Teachers' Lounge at South Ward school, donated to the school library, encouraged driver education. They established a scholarship fund that has already seen one girl through nursing school. The club cooperated with other civic groups in securing the swimming pool, water reservoir, United Fund and the historical society program.



Top Picture: One of the first houses built in Nocona. It was located just about where the James McCall house is located and was part of a 100 acre tract which included what is now the golf course. It was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Weiss.

Bottom Picture: The inside of Alexander's Stoar in the early 20's. As a part of his advertising plan, Kent Alexander's father would write letters to his customers with simplified spelling. That is the reason he uses Stoar today instead of store.

Texas Seismograph Company

Dependable Seismic Surveys

Panhandle Bldg. Phone 723-1493
Wichita Falls, Texas

Western Auto Associate Store

Mrs. A. W. (Mac) Williams, Owner
Nocona Texas

Tyler & Simpson Co.

WHOLESALE GROCERS

Gainesville, Texas

Branches Ardmore & Norman, Okla.
Servicing the RETAIL GROCER since 1879

CONGRATULATIONS

CARNATION COMPANY
of TEXAS

Wichita Falls, Texas

Search for Crude in Montague County Was Started Soon After the Turn of the Twentieth Century

Montague County was settled a ranching and cotton country, but the search for oil started after the turn of the century.

In May 1901, E. P. Davis from Pennsylvania arrived in Montague County, assembled a block of leases in the east central part of the county. He drilled a test well for oil, the location being about two miles north of Saint Jo. This well was drilled by cable tools to a depth of 600 or 700 feet and consumed most of a year to complete drilling operations.

The same interests made the second test the next year about two miles west of Saint Jo. A small show of oil was encountered at the base of the Trinity sands. This was of an asphaltic nature and insufficient to pay.

Some of the lands that Davis leased are now producing oil, however, from deeper sands.

In April 1911, came K. W. Ingram from Pittsburg, Pa. He leased several thousand acres of land in north Montague County, paying 10 cents per acre. His associates drilled a test well on the Wesley Robinson farm, located three miles northeast of Nocona. This well was drilled with cable tools to a depth of about 2300 feet. No oil was found. A greater portion of the K. W. Ingram acreage is now in production.

In 1916 the third Pennsylvanian, George Williams, came to the county. He also assembled a block of leases about nine miles northeast of Nocona and drilled a well on the J. E. Lemons farm to a depth of 2304 feet. At this depth both oil and gas was produced and to George Williams goes the honor of discovering the first well in Montague County. Although the test was never completed as a commercial producer, it was an incentive for more wildcat activity which soon led to commercial production.

Shortly after Williams' activity came an oil promoter by the name of Harley R. Hinton, from the east. He was inspired with the idea of securing a large block of leases and selling off sufficient acreage to bear the cost of a test well. Williams and his local partners drew up a mutual agreement setting out many things that each was to do to complete the deal. Not clothed in the best legal phraseology, this instrument had a closing paragraph which read: "We, each of us, hereby agree to do the very best we can in carrying out this deal to get a well drilled and strike oil."

Referring to the records there are many quaint phrases and paragraphs in the early leases and other instruments.

A certain land description reads: "Beginning at a stake set 162 varas west of Ox Mill door at Eagle Point, Texas."

In another, the notary drawing a lease got his varas, yards and years mixed up and it reads: "Beginning at the S. W. Corner of blank survey, thence east 620 years to an elm tree marked X. Standing on the west bank of Farmers Creek, thence down

the center of Farmers Creek 620 years."

Another had this: "Lessee must not let any Johnson grass grow on the lease."

A certain lessee was desirous of obtaining a lease on land in Nocona that was owned by some heirs in an eastern state. They were evidently unfamiliar with oil production. He wanted to make the proposition attractive and explained in detail that the lessor would receive one barrel of oil out of each eight barrels produced. The reply came that the proposition looked good and they were ready to sign the lease when one thing was made clear. Whose expense was it to be to furnish all the barrels to put this oil in?

Another lessee was proposing to buy an oil lease. The lessor, a crafty old farmer, demanded that any lease he signed should have three certain conditions understood, and that was, "Lessee must pay, dig or get off."

On July 26, 1923, at 11 a.m. the Petroleum Producers Company, drilling in the J. W. Maddox lands about 10 miles north of Nocona, tapped into an immense gas sand. At 2 p.m. the Texas Company, drilling on the J. E. Lemons farm, encountered the same gas sand. Production from these wells was estimated at 125,000,000 cubic feet each.

In February, 1924, The Texas Company completed the first commercial oil well in Montague County from which oil was run into pipe line. This was on the S. A. Gist farm 10 miles north of Nocona. The late John L. Lesh was the driller who completed this well.

Just a few days later the Humphrey's Drilling Company brought in wells on both the Maddox and Salmon ranches.

Also the Wood, Benton, Lesh and McCall Drilling Company, a local company, brought in a producing well on the Hinds farm, just north of the Prairie Valley school.

From that time on the North Field has been producing. The early days of the field saw a number of boom towns or camps spring up. All rigs and equipment were moved by either mule teams or oxen, and large contractor with heavy wagons and many horses moved into the area. Several of the companies still have their camps on the original sites.

In 1926, John Hooser brought in the discovery well of Hooser Field on the August Hyman farm, which is in northwest Cooke county and just across the Montague County line.

In July 1933, Seitz, Comegys and Seitz completed the first well in the Hott pool

In September 1933, Benton and Holmes completed the discovery well in the Davenport Field, which proved to be one of the best shallow pools in the county. Most of these wells are still producing oil.

In 1933 Gibson and Jennings completed the first well in Holt Field on the C. Holt farm. On Dec. 28, 1938, Rogers Brothers completed the discovery well

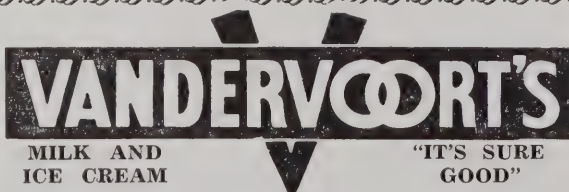
This is the only known picture of a Law Class in 1892 at Montague. l.r. Postmaster Cook, D. M. Smith, Bill Jamison, W. W. Cork, Mr. Hunt, Levi Walker, J. M. Chambers, County Attorney Slaton, Robert Kellar, Mr. Frye. Most lawyers studied law at the county seat in the early days.



Above: Early Montague County pioneers, Ed Hinton, Jim Burnett, Jim Gray, and Clay Robinson, at Red River Station Cemetery.

Texas Termite Control Co.

F. E. Shoop, Owner
WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS



Patterson Studio and Camera Shop

Portraits and Photographs
Make History More Than Memories
Bowie Texas

Gary-Nees Lumber Company

Everything in Building Material
BOWIE, TEXAS

east of Nocona, being a 5000-foot conglomerate formation, and the first discovery in the deeper pay. This was on the J. E. A. Burnett farm.

In January, 1938, Benton and Holmes completed the discovery well in the Bowers Field at 2986 feet, in Strawn sand. The following July they completed the Bowers No. 2 at 3954 feet. This being a discovery in a deeper horizon and the first, "granite wash" discovered in North Texas. These wells were on the Joe Bowers farm.

In 1941 Sinclair Oil Company completed No. 1, on the Lena Benton farm. This was a 5100-foot horizon and in the conglomerate lime.

Following the development on the Benton and Jordon farms, the Sinclair Oil Company developed a 40-well pool in and around the town of Bonita in the 5000-foot conglomerate formation.

In 1943, Walter Gant drilled the discovery well, J. L. Brown No. 1 in the Hildreth Field. This was the forerunner for development in this great field. Gant's effort was followed by the Continental Oil Company drilling on the Jack Hildreth farm resulting in the completion of a big well in a conglomerate formation. This was followed by the drilling of several hundred good producers in the Hildreth Field and the several extensions therefrom, namely: the Lewis Stewart pool, the Kennedy pool, the Mueller pool, the Salmon pool, and the Mallard pool.

Simultaneously with the vast development of the Hildreth Field the Magnolia Petroleum Company drilled the discovery well in the Belcherville pool on the Grant farm.

Around Forestburg, Magnolia and Sinclair developed a pool in 1944. These wells were completed in the 6700-foot Marble Falls lime.

Since the discovery of the Hildreth Field there have been discoveries and completions on the following named farms and ranches of separately designated pools of from two to 10 wells each and all completed in the deeper horizons: Benson Brothers, Center Henry, Hinds Clark, C. P. Miller, A. N. Arveson, J. Cross, Jess Sanders, Watson Heirs, J. C. Grant, Joe Mitchell, W. F. Kingsbry, Bruce Henderson, I. M. Jones, M. Fowler, P. E. Boedecker, Lee Tucker, B. S. Foster, J. B. Zetzcke, J. A. Ketchum, Joe Benton, Wilmer Seay, S. W. Heard, J. P. Clingingsmith, Quillen Estate, Nora Mitchell, J. A. Wall and Stien Ranch southwest of Ringgold, Luther Staley ranch, the McNutt pool, the Eaves Field southwest of Bowie, and Maddox ranch near Belcherville.

More recent important discoveries in the county have been the Engle interests on the Fenoglio farm two miles north of Montague, No. 1 Collier. Also there is a discovery on the Laird ranch, 10 miles south of Bowie. This was developed by the Bolin interests of Wichita Falls.

There have been over 2,000 producing oil wells drilled in the county. These wells have produced over 200,000,000 barrels of oil. There are producing horizons from 800 to 7200 feet. There is not a farm in Montague County's 963 square miles that is very far from an oil well.

Among petroleum engineers and geologists there are many who are now predicting that a bigger development and a greater amount of oil will yet be found in the county. They are talking of 9,000

to 10,000-foot wells to vaster sands and higher gravity oil with mineral values several times greater than what they are today.

Along with the oil development in Montague County have come allied industries and occupations, the oil well supply houses, oil equipment, machinery and pipe yards.

Many of the pioneers of the oil industry have gone on and we would like to mention their names as having done a greater job for the oil industry and for Montague County. They include George Williams, J. S. Wood, R. W. Cunningham, John W. Maddox, Noah Howard, Crispin Holt, John W. Agee, I. A. Gist, W. W. Jones, Mrs. Hattie H. Salmon, Robert Hynds, Sam Howard, John Rowland, J. S. Dennis, J. E. Leons, Clark A. Hood, Cad McCall and Phil Lesh.

SAM BASS HIDEOUT

Pioneer settlers report that in the southeastern part of the County Sam Bass, the jovial bandit and train robber, had a cabin in the brush, south of Forestburg and that when he pulled a job and wanted to hide for awhile that he would spend the time at the cabin.

Denton was his home, and he was killed in an attempted train robbery at Round Rock, Texas.

BUTTERFIELD STAGE

On July 2, 1857 the Postmaster General awarded a mail contract to the Butterfield Company, calling for semi-monthly mail runs along the route at a cost of \$600,000. For a while the line ran across Montague county near Forestburg, where signs of the old stage coach ruts can still be seen.

FRUIT INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY

In 1937 the Montague County Commissioners Court gave Texas A & M College 40 acres off the county farm to start a grape experiment station.

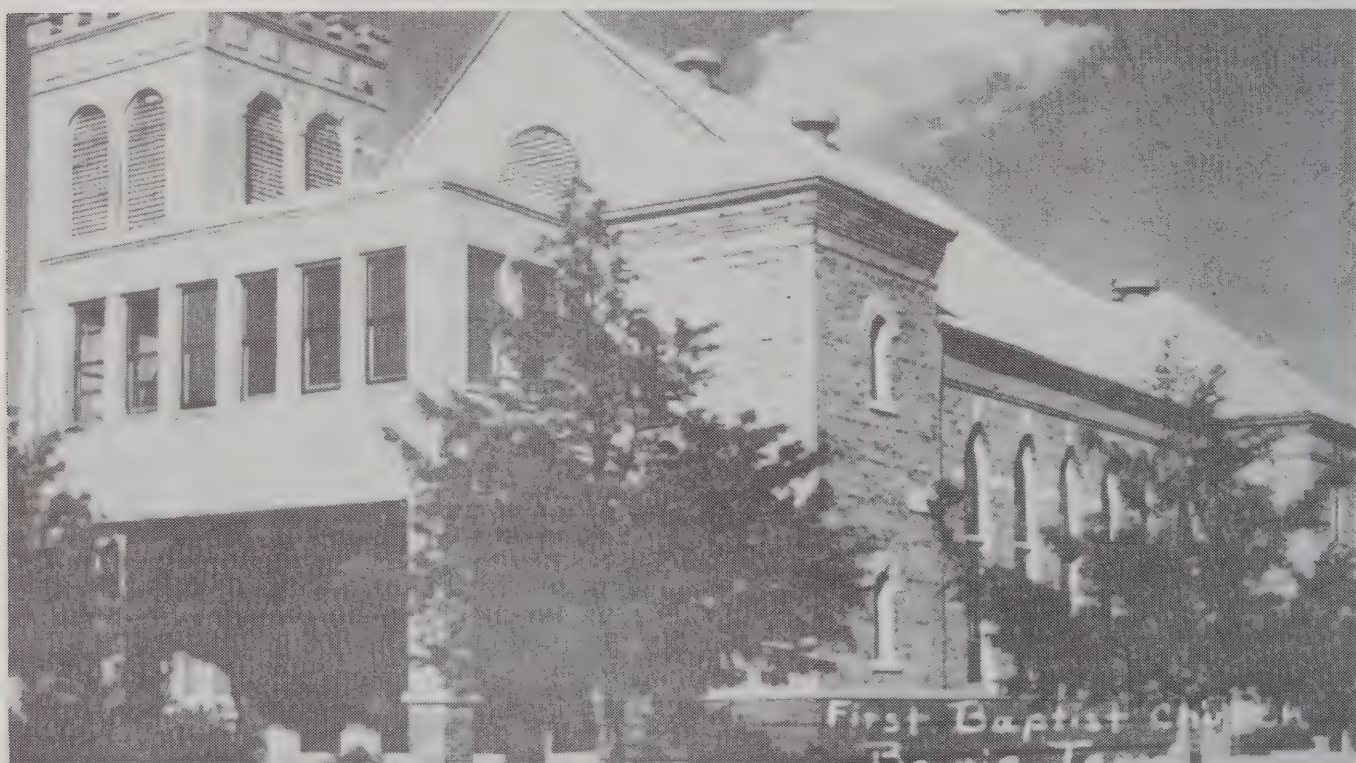
U. A. Randolph was sent to Montague as the horticulturist, and established his office in the court house, and started working on the Fruit Investigations Laboratory.

In 1941 the state built a caretaker's home, and in 1951 they built the office building, the laboratory and Randolph's home at the station.

An annual grape festival was organized and a big celebration is held during the season when the grapes ripen.

All problems arising in the state of Texas on the grape problem are sent to this laboratory.

Peaches were added to the experiment station a few years ago, and Mr. Randolph has helped to develop a ranger peach that will withstand early frost and still develop commercial fruit. Growers in the Rio Grande valley were having trouble with early freezes killing their fruit and asked for a peach of the type of the Ranger, which is said to be superior to any other now grown.



Top Picture: Bowie's new firewagon in 1907. The black horses in the picture were traded for white horses a short time after this picture was made on June 19, 1907.

Bottom Picture: This church was destroyed by fire and a new structure was erected on the same site.

Jackson's Dep't Store

Dependable BOWIE Home Owned

CONGRATULATIONS
TO
MONTAGUE COUNTY CITIZENS ON
YOUR 100th ANNIVERSARY

Friends from WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

CONGRATULATIONS
TO MY MANY FRIENDS IN
MONTAGUE COUNTY

FRANK IKARD

Congressman, 13th District of Texas

98th Degree Meridian Surveyed In 1900

By Harriet V. Morrow

The economy of Bowie and the area was boosted around 1900 by the arrival of surveyors sent by the United States government to survey and establish base lines for the locating of the 98th degree meridian.

On any geographical globe representing the earth there are always to be seen lines drawn at right angles to the equator, and passing around the globe through the North and South poles. Maps also show sections of such lines. These are called meridians, (or meridian circles if an entire circle is referred to), from the Latin word for midday. Wherever we may stand, there is a meridian on the spot directly beneath us, and when the sun reaches that line, it is midday at that place.

In order to find the distance of a place east or west of any certain point, men saw that there must be some fixed line from which to measure. In 1884, at a meeting held in Washington, D.C., it was decided to establish a line passing through the observatory at Greenwich, near London, as a starting point, to call it the "prime meridian," and to reckon distances east or west from it up to 180 degrees, a degree at the equator being equal to about sixty-nine and one-fifth miles.

The method of surveying by first-order triangulation was new and was tried out first in Texas at Bowie. It was here that metallic tapes were first used as standard equipment for measuring the base lines. The government surveyors arrived at Bowie, Texas in 1900 and used Bowie as their headquarters while they tried out this new method of surveying.

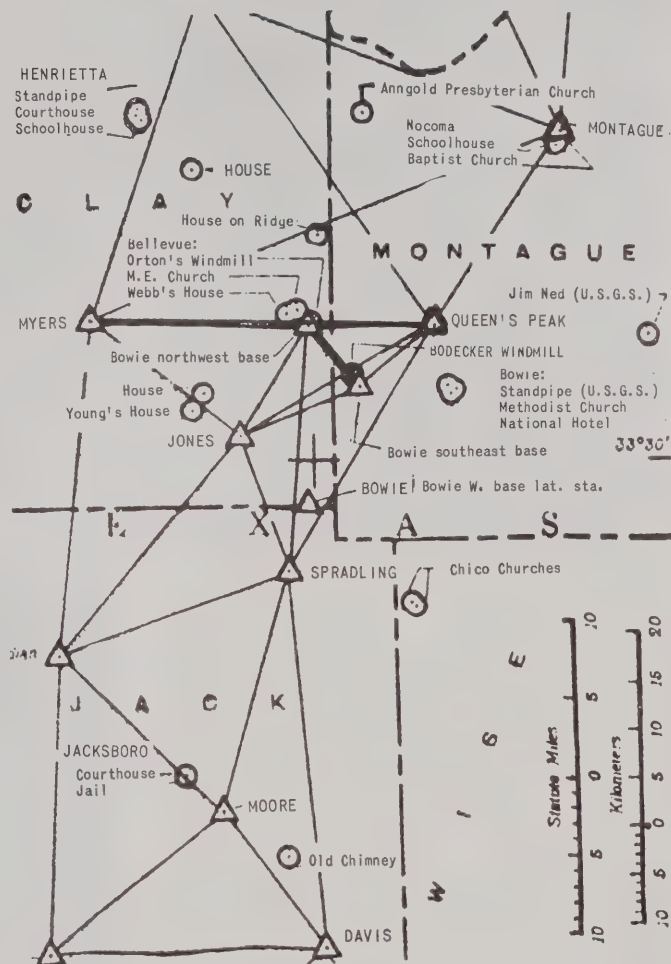
The task was a laborious one. The necessary elevation of instrument and target was secured by towers of lumber, hauled from Bowie by wagon and team. The towers had to be erected with extreme care to secure requisite strength and rigidity, and then were abandoned when the work was completed. Observations were made on heliostopes which could be used only when the sun was shining and on gas lamps which required constant attention. Such feats of engineering are accomplished today by means of high-grade automobile trucks for transportation; steel towers for elevating instruments and targets; towers that can be erected to heights of 100 and more feet in less than five hours, and taken down in even less time and moved to a new station and used not once, but a hundred times or more; for a target a small compact electric light, so dependable that it is fitted with time switches and can be left unattended.

The descriptions of stations established in the Bowie area are listed as: Queen (Montague County, W. Bowie, 1902) About 6 miles west of north from Bowie, at the highest point of a prominent cone-shaped peak known as Queen Peak, on the land of E. Bates . . . (Elevation, 1,189 feet).

Bowie northwest base (Clay County, 1900; 1907) . . . On a prominent knoll, 1 miles southwest of Bellevue, which is on the land of J. D. Orton.

Bowie southeast base (Clay County, 1900;1906) . . . West of the city of Bowie and southeast of the town of Bellevue, on the highest part of a prominent ridge, on the land of C. H. Boedecker).

The descriptions of the stations also includes the names of the engineers who established the stations. In the Bowie area A. L. Baldwin is listed as the engineer. The description of the markers are similar,



reading as follows: "Surface mark is an old type station mark in limestone block set in concrete. The underground mark is a copper bolt leaded into bedrock, 3 feet below the surface of the ground. The description of the station on the Orton ranch locates it in relation to the house. That particular house, however, was built in the seventies of lumber hauled by wagon from Jefferson City and although still standing is not the Orton house. Nevertheless, the marker is conspicuous and easily found.

(Source material — U. S. Coastal and Geodetic Survey)

HISTORY OF BELCHERVILLE

Was established in 1887 with the coming of the Gainesville, Henrietta and Western railroad. It had a quick start and became a very popular trading town especially with the people from Indian Territory.

The town was named after a pioneer rancher named Belcher who donated the land for the establishing of the town.

In 1894 it was incorporated and at the turn of the century boasted 30 stores, two school districts. Its biggest competitor for survival was Nocona five miles east.

Shortly after World War I two big fires destroyed most of the business houses, and they were never rebuilt. The town continued to lose population until to-day it is the smallest incorporated town in the state of Texas and has no post office, no school, or city government.



PICTURES BY PATTERSON, BOWIE

Top Picture: Heard's Hardware Store showing the buggy and saddle department.

Bottom Picture: Heard's Hardware Store, with Mr. Heard and Mr. Caddy. This was one of the popular hardware stores at the turn of the century.

Congratulations to the
People of Montague County on Their
100th Anniversary

Bridwell Oil Company

Wichita Falls, Texas

**Montague County
Abstract Co.**

The Oldest and Most Complete
Abstract Plant in Montague County
Established 1893 Montague, Texas

HEARD'S HARDWARE

"Three Generations in the Same Store"

BOWIE, TEXAS

HEARD'S SELLING HARDWARE SINCE 1894

SAM — EMIN — GORDON

Taovayas Indians

THE COUNTY'S OLDEST SETTLERS

By Harriet V. Morrow

The region known as Montague County, particularly the northwest portion along the Red River was the home of the Tawehash Indians for over a century from about 1719-1834. This tribe of Indians who were related to the Wichitas played an important role in the diplomatic and trade relations between France, Spain and England during that time. So important did they become that their power was brought to the attention of Charles III, King of Spain.

Early Spanish explorers had found the Tawehash merged with the Wichita tribes in Kansas. The name of the tribe sounded like Taovayas in Spanish so in all the documents that have been preserved they are referred to by that name. The early Spanish explorers who were accompanied by monks and friars had an advantage. The monks were scribes, and meticulously recorded events, people they encountered, modes of living, and much other valuable data. American frontiersmen kept few records and left only a few penciled notations if any at all.

When the Osage Indians were driven westward they forced the peaceful Wichita tribes out of their native haunts which they had occupied for centuries. Among them the families of the Tawehash moved as far as the Red River, crossed it and in a forest on the river banks built their grass huts. This was where Spanish Fort now stands. The year was 1719.

A century or more before members of their tribe had wandered as far south as the Gulf of Mexico. Hidden behind the moss hung trees they had watched great white "birds" (ships) come to shore. They watched strange looking men ride odd four legged beasts off the ships and onto the beaches. The men carried an iron stick. They thought at first when they heard the explosion of a shell fired from the gun that it was the horse belching. They learned quickly that the stick was a weapon far more accurate and deadly than their bow and arrow. The horses fascinated them. The Indians were determined to obtain both horses and guns. Many times they salvaged the animals and guns from ships that were wrecked in storms along the coast. More often they attacked and seized the guns and horses from the Spanish explorers. The journey back was a long one. So the Tawehash probably decided to move further south than their relatives and have a better opportunity to obtain horses and guns.

By the time Bernard Le Harpe, a Frenchman from Natchitoches visited the Red River Indians in 1719 he found the warriors of the tribe riding beautiful horses with saddles and bridles in the Spanish style. Following this visit the Taovayas became attached to the French through trade and for almost a century held a strategic position as middlemen in the commerce and diplomacy of the French, Spanish and English governments as they fought and struggled over the supremacy of the southern plains. From the French traders they obtained guns, ammunition and vermilion in exchange for their tobacco, buffalo hides and pelts, slaves and salt.

Beyond the village was a high rolling prairie with rich soil which they cultivated. The women and slaves raised the crops of maize, tobacco, pumpkin, beans, melons and sweet potatoes. The men did the hunting and fighting, hunting mostly with the bow and saving their ammunition for warfare. Their pumpkin was dried and plaited into mats, their tobacco was fine cut and stored in leather bags both of which they

traded to the Comanches, for buffalo rugs, horses and mules. They usually ate buffalo but seldom venison, and the deer came about like domestic animals. They were killed only for their skins. The women wore a loose robe, often decorated with bear claws, and the men wore trousers of deer skin supported with belts of buffalo hides from which they often hung scalps for decoration.

The village of the Taovayas grew until by the middle of the century they had 123 large grass huts with room for from 10 to 12 beds or pallets in each. The women had a voice in their government, which was democratic. Chiefs, who prided themselves on owning nothing, did not hold office by hereditary right, but were elected for their valor. The head chief was the Great Bear. Their religion included "fire worship" and they believed in a hereafter. They were a conservative people. They saved all the bones of the animals they killed and used them as weapons and in making tools and for ornaments. Traces of their bone pile remain today.

Several miles away over the prairie on the opposite side of the tree covered buttes was a salt lick where the deer and buffalo came. The Taovayas used it to season and cure the buffalo and bear meat and for medicinal purposes. They carried it back to the village in casks that they made from the clay along the river bed. They used flints for fire and baked the clay that they moulded into various types of bowls and pots.

The salt they found became an important item of trade to the French. The Spaniards although they had not solicited their trade resented this encroachment on their property by the French. When a mercantile fair at Taos, New Mexico in 1749 two French traders appeared with a Comanche Indian guide they were certain that the Taovagas had aided the traders through their village and into the camp of the Comanches. The Spaniards had attempted to make friends of the Apache Indians who were bitter enemies of the Taovayas and Comanches. They had gone so far as to establish a mission for the Apaches at San Saba. The Taovayas resented this gesture of friendship and with the Comanches made an attack on the mission in March of 1758. The mission was destroyed and the commander Colonel Parrilla was deeply humiliated. King Charles III approved an expedition to be led by Colonel in retaliation for the destruction of San Saba. On October 7, 1759 Colonel Parrilla with some five hundred members of the militia and missionary Indians and three hundred Apaches, accompanied by a baggage train with two cannons, arrived at the Taovayas village and engaged in battle. They had come from San Antonio which they had left in August, had come northeast to the Brazos where they had attacked and captured 149 Tonkawas; and aided by the captive Tonkawas found the Taovagas by following the eastern fringe of the Cross Timbers.

In the meantime the Taovayas had had time to return to their village and fortify it against an attack which their scouts had informed them was certain. They had fortified it with intrenchments, stockades, and ditches. With underground tunnels for possible escape for the noncombatants. Behind the village was assembled four thousand Comanches. As Parrilla approached he found Indians mounted on the stockade with muskets and warriors on horseback with footmen to carry and load their extra guns. Inside the stockade they had six thousand confederate Indians.

The ensuing battle which lasted four hours ended



This is one of the early day oil wells in Montague county. The entire derrick was made of wood and most of the derrick floor was enclosed.

jack mercer
... well ... service ...
☎ 141 & L. D. 525 NOCONA, TEXAS

disastrously for Colonel Parrilla. He was forced to retreat leaving behind all of the baggage train and two cannon. The memory of the event remained for thirty years as a disgrace to Spanish arms. The Apache allies had fled early during the battle taking with them the Spanish horses as well as their own. The Taovayas and their allies had the advantage of numbers as well as steadier fighting qualities. The warriors were described as men of great valor riding fine horses and wearing shields of white buckskin and helmets of the same with plumes of red horsehair.

This success of the Taovayas encouraged them to continued their raids far southward on the Apaches and Spaniards alike. On one of these escapades they captured a Spanish soldier named Tremino. He was wounded but he had fought so bravely the chief took him back to the village and had him cared for. He lived with them for three years and although he was treated royally he longed to return to his own people and he was finally returned to the Spanish garrison at Nacogdoches. The head chief of the Taovayas at that time was Chief Eyasiquiche and he personally led the escort. At Nacogdoches he was made "a Spanish Official and sent home with presents of a cane, a dress coat, and three horses." This was Montague County's outstanding citizen in 1765.

By 1763 the importance of the French trade had declined since now the Taovayas had the English for neighbors to the east. A priest Fray Calahorra visited the village and started to lay the ground work for a mission among the northern Indians. By 1770 one De Mezieres was sent by the Spanish to the Taovayas to cultivate their friendship. On October 27, 1771 he negotiated a treaty with them which was signed with crosses and a ceremony of burying the hatchet was staged. De Mezieres named the two villages, on the Red River, the one on the south side of the Taovayas, San Theodore and the other of the Wichitas, San Bernardo. He also persuaded them to return Parrilla's cannon. He was so enthusiastic about the location of the Taovayas village that he wrote: "It is certain that if this place comes to be settled it will be one of the most important, both at present, and in the future, because it is the masterkey of the north." That was Montague County in 1778.

As a result of DeMeziere's association resident Spanish traders were established at the village. From then on there are numerous references to the villages as the country began to fill up with traders and settlers. Some describe the pleasant reception they received and describe the number of huts in the villages. The chief glory and importance of the Taovayas and their kinsmen the Wichitas seems to have ended by the nineteenth century. By the time the United States bought Louisiana in 1803 various exploring parties were being sent out to obtain information about the land they had acquired. Existing settlements such as the Taovayas occupied were sought out. Descriptions of their living conditions and habits were recorded. Although there were fish in the river it is said they did not eat them but used them for fertilizer. References are made to their trade and their salt.

Their love for horses which had prompted their ancestors to seek the Spaniard's horses continued. Although they were considered being among the friendly tribes they were seldom trusted. They did ally themselves against the Apaches with the Spaniards however, and in 1813 they aided the revolutionists against the royal arms. As a tribe they never subjected to mission influence. As the changes in government took place, from Spanish jurisdiction to Mexican, then to Texas Independence, more and more white men came into the territory. The Taovayas who survived the scourges of small pox which took a toll among many Indians early in the century, withdrew across the river into Indian Territory where they could have the benefit of protection and assistance from the Federal government. In 1834 a regiment of the United States Dragoons visited the villages and

reported that they were scantily supplied and that they, the soldiers, had to barter everything they had, even the buttons from their clothes, to obtain anything to eat.

Montague County had its artist even in 1834. The noted artist George Catlin, accompanied the troops and leaves a two volume book of pictures of natives they visited. In describing the Taovayas Indians he said the men were clumsy and ordinary looking but improved when mounted on horseback. That the women were exceedingly pretty and their dresses were ornamented with fur or with shells. Their garments were often garnished with elk teeth, their most highly prized ornament.

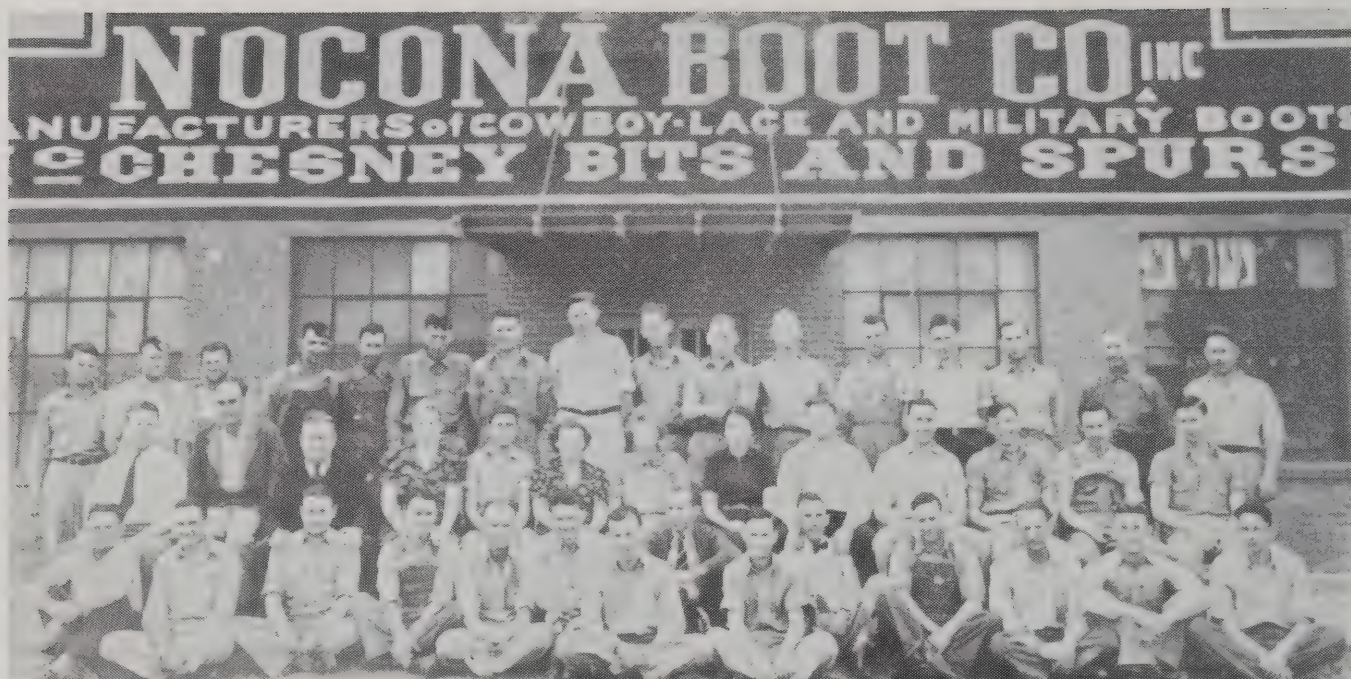
In 1835-36 the northern Indians became an important factor as potential Mexican allies. Near the Cross Timbers a Mexican agent bearing a message from General Filisola to the Indians at San Theodore was killed. Sam Houston's skill in dealing with Indians saved a general uprising among them in the north as the Mexicans were defeated. By 1840 the Taovayas, their numbers greatly reduced, their geographical location no longer of strategic importance, in trade or diplomacy, and suffering from depredations themselves, became completely submerged into the Wichita tribe. The village, San Bernardo on the north side of the Red River was occupied by members of the Comanche tribe until the Civil War started. Many of the Indians at that time retreated to Kansas. The Wichita tribe together with the remnants of the Taovayas now live at Indian City at Andarko, Oklahoma. Though the Wichitas accepted their Taovayas kinsmen, they were never able to prevent them from invading the white settlements and stealing horses, and were as unsuccessful in reforming them as the white man had been. Their familiarity with the region made their raids on the white settlers in Montague County simple for them. In addition to their love for horses they were undoubtedly prompted in these raids because of resentment against the invasion of the white man into the land they had once adopted for their own and loved.

Grateful acknowledgement is hereby given the following persons who aided me in obtaining material for this narrative: Congressman Frank Ikard, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Robbie Edsell, Wichita Falls, Texas; Mrs. Gertrude Phillips, Norman, Oklahoma; State Representative, Anthony Fenoglio, Nocona, Texas.

Source material used: Llerena Friend, "Old Spanish Fort", West Texas Historical Ass'n. Yearbook October 1940; Elizabeth Ann Harper, "The Taovayas Indians in Trade and Diplomacy", *Chronicles of Oklahoma*, 1953; Research Service, *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

BOWIE'S TOWN BAND

There was a City Band organized in about the year of 1900, with the Postmaster W. C. Smith acting as director, having some 15 or 20 members. In about 1910, W. D. Ackley (a former employee of Barnum and Bailey Circus) became director. Some of the members were: Jess Brown, Scott Avery, Mose Johnson, John Black, Walter Black, Gene Lillard, Arthur Sadler, Earl Wilhite, Wiley Wilhite, Bud Wilhite, Floyd Martin, Paul McDonald, L. W. McDonald, Lawson Nall, and Cecil Dobkins. This band did not have a president and other officers, but Walter Black was business director, and acted as such for many years.



Top Picture: Employees of the Nocona Boot Co., at their old factory in 1938.

Bottom Picture: Employees of the Nocona Boot Co., Inc. at their new plant.

Leonard Insurance Agency

NOCONA'S OLDEST INSURANCE AGENCY

Always at your service.

Members of Texas and National Insurance Agents Association

All Kinds of Insurance

FIRE — TORNADO — AUTO — and BONDS

W. F. LEONARD

Telephone 489

F. & M. BANK BUILDING

C. S. McCALL

Nocona, Texas

FRUITLAND: "The Hub of the County's Fruit Belt"

By I. B. WAGONSELLER

The community now called Fruitland was first named Plano in 1880. In 1884 the community name was changed to "Woodswitch." Will H. Scarborough had purchased the land of this vicinity and was in the process of clearing it. He was shipping wood by the cord and a large wooden platform was built by the side of the Fort Worth and Denver City Railroad to load from; hence, the name "Woodswitch."

Scarborough, father of "Woodswitch," became also the "Father of Fruitland." After the land was cleared, he laid off ten acre lots and set them in fruit trees. Some of the families who purchased this land bought 10, 20, and 40 acre tracts; and the land was planted in fruit; therefore, in 1894 the name of the community and school was changed to Fruitland.

Conductor H. L. Miller bought from Scarborough, as did the Abels, the Todds, and John Willis, all from Scotland; others were the Heugatters, Fred Brown, Charlie Weckar, William Jackson, and George Capps.

A. R. Burnett, I. N. Parsons, and Frank Davis had farms when the Woodswitch name was changed to Fruitland. Other old timers were Tom Chandler, the Crows, John Gray, Hiram Block, J. W. Reasor, F. F. Green, T. R. Pierce, W. R. Ratliff . . .

The peak years for the orchards of Fruitland were from 1894 to 1910. During the 20's and 30's most of the orchards fell to insect and neglect.

In 1904 Frank Davis won first prize with his apples at the Saint Louis World's Fair. With this fine beginning, it would seem that fruit growing in the Fruitland area would have no limit as to its possibilities.

The Texas Almanac of 1904 had an article on **FRUIT GROWING IN THE CROSS TIMBERS**; to quote, "The experimental period in the fruit growing industry has been passed in Montague County." Thirty-two years later the County got itself a Fruit Experiment Station.

It must be remembered that many of these orchards were mere sidelines to people with other occupations. Men like Conductor H. L. Miller, and H. R. Davis, a machinist who built gins, would not be able alone to cope with the problems that soon beset the fruitland growers: Insects, areas of alkali soil, late spring freezes, and the next Fruitland generation preferring the higher standard of living found in surrounding industrial towns.

The Texas Almanac article of 1904 dealt mainly with the Fruitland growers. For this reason, it is quoted:

"Bowie, Fruitland, and Sunset in the order named, are the principal shipping points. During

the season, the daily express shipments aggregate about two carloads, two-thirds of this amount from Bowie. Two years ago growers inaugurated carload shipments, and since then they have sent out in that manner 3 carloads of Elberta peaches, 3 cars of apples, several mixed carloads of fruit and vegetables and several of potatoes. Satisfactory prices were realized, and shipments by the carload will increase. In 1902 the canning factory at Bowie packed 8 carloads, and in 1903, 6 cars. The runs were short because of high prices paid for fruit by outside markets.

The following data concerning the commercial fruits of Montague County, in the order of their ripening, with 1903 prices, was gathered at random from some of the growers:

Peaches - Alexander, Mamie Ross, Elberta, and Solway, ripen June 1 to Oct. 1; quality first class bring more money on the Colorado market than California choice; 1903 crop, choice stuff, netted growers \$2 a bushel, the same stuff at home found ready sale at \$1; six to eight-year-old Elberta trees yield five bushels each, 75 trees to acre. **E. C. Chandler** said: "One thousand one-third bushel crates of Elbertas netted me 72 cents each; 180 nine year old Mamie Ross trees yielded 100 one-third bushel crates, netted 65 cents each." **John S. Ables**: "One hundred and forty crates of Triumphs, choice, early stuff, netted me \$1.75 each." All of the varieties named bring good prices.

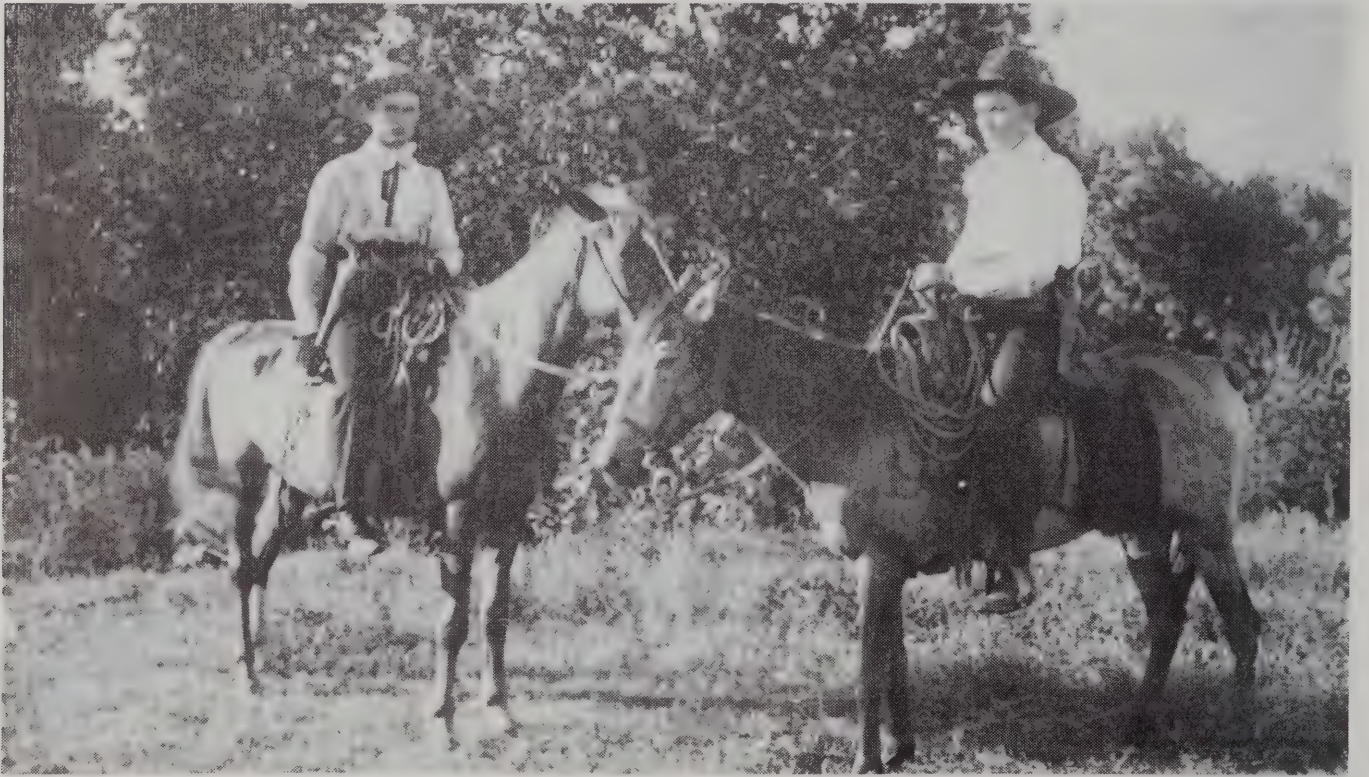
Apples: Red June, Early Harvest, Yellow Transparent, Summer Queen, Seek-No-Further, Ben Davis, Arkansas Black, Mammoth Black Twig; ripen June 10 till late fall; last year any kind of good apples netted \$1 to \$1.50 a bushel, select stuff higher. Sam H. Dixon, in charge of the horticultural exhibit for the Texas World's Fair Commission, secured 50 bushels of select stuff for the exhibit. **S. D. Thompson**: "From my five-acre apple orchard I gathered 1200 bushels last year; they netted me \$1 a bushel." **G. E. Davis**: "Had six acres in bearing apple trees last year; sold 1000 bushels, some at \$1; my fancy apples brought \$2, and the average price was \$1.25."

Plums: Botan, Wild Goose, Burbank, Mixon and Chickasaw; ripen middle of June to last of August; prices \$1.25 to \$2 a bushel.

Grapes: Champion, Delaware, Niagara, Concord, Goethe, Herbemont; ripen July 1 to last of August; quality first class; are grown extensively by German and Italian farmers and converted into wine; no market yet found for large shipments, but express shipments do very well, netting 3 cents a pound.

Pears: Keiffer and Clopp's Favorite; bear well, and net \$1 a bushel.

Blackberries and Dewberries: acreage large and increasing; ripen May 20 to July 15; netted last



Top Picture: Picture of Nocona School in 1889. Sherman Williams, Superintendent, Miss Jennie McCall, teacher.

Bottom Picture: Doph Carmichael and Cad McCall, taken in 1896.

NOCONA *Leather Goods Co.*

Manufacturers of Athletic Leather Goods

Post Office Box 329 — Phone LD 535

NOCONA, TEXAS

year \$1.50 per crate of 24 quarts; yield 100 to 150 crates per acre.

A considerable quantity of Rock Ford cantaloupes is grown. Among the truck crops are pumpkin - yam sweet potatoes which sell for \$1.50 a bushel, when shipped, and the common sweet potato, which sells at 25 cents to \$1; also kidney wax beans, which bring \$1 a bushel."

In 1911 or 1912, according to Della Wynn, 19 carloads of peaches were shipped from Fruitland. These were packed in a large native rock building called the warehouse which still stands today on the Glen Underwood place. Mrs. Wynn, whose name was Della Davis at the time, said that it was mainly the girls' job to pack the peaches. She said that they would write their names and addresses inside the crates and would receive letters from all over the country.

During the peak years of orchard production in Fruitland roadside stands were non-existent. Almost all of the fruit went to market by rail; although, there are records of some enterprising people with wagons who hauled this fruit to Oklahoma and areas of western Texas.

Fruitland today, 1958, is located on two heavily-traveled national highways. Highway 81 from north to south runs from Alaska to Mexico. Highway 287 in the Fruitland area carries the main east-west traffic Florida to California. U. S. 287 carries a heavy summer traffic for the tourist who comes Highway 80 to the Ft. Worth-Dallas area and then chooses the northern route to California, taking 287 through Fruitland and Bowie to national Highway 66 at Amarillo.

The Fruitland area stands on high ground. Looking east we see Jim Ned Lookout of the Forestburg Limestone hills and to the west the hills and deep valleys of the Amon Carter Lake Region. To the tourist, this is a beautiful, pastoral, relaxing country. Many travelers come from the treeless plains of the west or the more level land of the north and south. Here they find 20 and sometime more roadside stands nestled in the shade of trees each with its own special invitation for the tourist to stop.

A half million dollars worth of products (fruits, pecans, honey, sorghum, cider, gifts, souvenirs, antiques, and chenille) are sold each year along this 6 mile stretch.

Joe Tanner back in 1929 was the first to operate a roadside stand in the Fruitland area. His place was located on the T. R. Pierce land between the Chandler vineyard and the present day lovely Crim home.

Others who ran a stand later on in this same location were Fred Heugatter, Raymond Cansler, Buck Proctor, and Homer Ward.

It was during the latter 20's that the Fort Worth and Denver Railway established an experimental vineyard at the northern edge of Fruitland. Oscar Chandler purchased this vineyard in 1932, and from his arbor by the roadside, sold grapes (Car-

man variety) by the basket to the traveling public and loaded trucks.

Take a little time to ride down memory lane the road from Sunset to Bowie. In the 1930s and 1940s H. B. Oates marketed his ten acre vineyard in the south part of Sunset, and in 1940 was selling grape juice at 5 cents per glass or one dollar per gallon. Pears from the I. W. Pace orchard, planted in 1930, produced its largest crop in 1940, 2000 bushels. The Russels and Johnsons of Sunset, pioneers of the novelty business, are still in business.

Two miles along the road north of Sunset Jewel Parsons and Ross Matthews have well-kept carman vineyards that are marketed at the roadside stands. In this vicinity the Greggs have a beautiful display of bedspreads, rugs, robes, and house coats.

Next to the Gregg's Chenille Shop, Boyd and Della Wynn, oldtimers in the fruitstand business. Della Wynn's rag dolls made in her own shop find a ready sale by the roadside. She receives orders from far away places; many of these orders are too large for her to fill. Boyd Wynn grows special bermuda onions; his dipper gourds also are in large demand.

On the Chris Neeld place a half mile north Fred Heugatter once operated a brush arbor stand; across the lane in a little red house Bonnie Mitchell of Spanish Fort marketed his papershell pecans in the early 1950s.

In 1956 Jack Glover, a great grandson of Journey who fiddled to obscure the noise of digging from a Mexican prison by the prisoners of the ill-fated Mier expedition of 1842 (the one where they drew the beans for life or death), took over the Red House, enlarged it, and established one of the wonder museums of the old west. He has over 3000 items on display, that includes longhorns, Indian relics, old books and guns, cow bells, buffalo quirts, relics of pioneer agriculture . . .

Past Glover's Museum, Buck's fruitstand, neat and clean, provides the main roadside market for local products in the area known as south Fruitland. Buck and his wife Maggie have worked hard beside the road for 20 years. In 1957 they finished a new modern home beside their stand and their friends came from miles around to give them a house warming.

Past Buck's, just this side of the lane that leads to the Rock Hill country, Ed Owens in the 30s and early 40s operated a thriving roadside business. He had a family of nine girls to help. In approximately this same location Tom Slade and wife from about 1950 to 1958 carried on the old roadside stand tradition. Here they sold home made cider and Mrs. Slade's home made Chow Chow.

Past the old Fruitland school house, lives Wild Bill Parsons, one of the most fabulous characters in the state of Texas. Any person who has ever stopped there will agree that he does have a line. Bill Parsons is one of the election judges and it is said that in any election, as Bill Parsons goes so goes Fruitland.



Top Picture: Saint Jo Town Band in 1912. This band would play at all special occasions, give concerts and marched in all parades. Most town bands have been replaced by high school bands.

Bottom Picture: 1905 Buick, one of the first cars in Saint Jo. In the front seat are Arthur Phillips and Bill Carmichael. K. R. Dort and Eron Barnes are the back seat occupants.

KNOWN AS "HEAD OF ELM" FROM 1855 UNTIL 1873



City of Saint Jo

Founded in 1873 — Incorporated in 1886

CITY OF OIL, CATTLE and AGRICULTURE

The way Bill Parsons looks at life may be illustrated by this typical incident: This past year he was having trouble with his eyesight and when his Wichita Falls doctor stopped by his stand, Bill made the following proposition: "If you operate on my eyes and restore my eyesight to full vision, I'll give you a thousand dollars. If you fail, I give you nothing." This year, 1958, Bill Parsons can see to drive a car again.

Bill Parsons says that the first people to sell produce on this highway were Brooks and Howard Winn. When boys they walked up and down the old road with buckets of peaches, carrying some sort of an umbrella as a shade. Also, on this old road, one of the Weckar boys had a thriving trade.

In the center of Fruitland, take us back to the beginning of Fruitland itself and we find a succession of fine names that have grown to be a part of this beautiful country. After World War I, George Miller and Jim Manning built a store in this location. They sold out to A. B. Briggs, who in turn sold to Marshall Taylor and Annie Button. Ed Weckar bought from the Buttons, and Weckar sold out to Raymond and Vivian Cansler. There followed then Harley and Minnie Swann, Mr. Huskey, Mrs. J. E. Simmons and her nearby cafe, and Amos and Clara Wagon seller.

Amos Wagon seller - - as you look and talk with him you may say that here is one of the vanishing Americans. His son was Wayne Warren Wagon seller, the most gifted orator of the Texas State Senate, and who, in 1955, set a national filibuster record, holding the floor for over 28 hours.

Amos Wagon seller taught in the rural schools of Montague County for 39 years; his last school was Fruitland in 1946; it was then that he joined the proud parade of roadside people. He and his wife Clara are probably the hardest working couple in the County, up long before sunup and work almost every night.

At a singing, the tenor voice of Wagon seller rings the loudest, 65 years old this Montague centennial year, he is an athlete who can run a mile and still be ready for another lap.

Wagon seller is the sorghum maker. If a person is searching for the old fashioned kind of cane juice squeezed by an old mule mill and cooked in an open pan over a wood fire - - then his search has ended here in the heart of Fruitland. This year 1958, he has a beautiful dog named Wolf and he delights in showing people Wolf's wide variety of tricks. Recently Wolf was hit by a car and while he was floundering around senseless Wagon seller ran to his rescue and carried him from the path of an oncoming truck.

If words can really catch the true character of Amos Wagon seller: He is a cowboy - - an expert with horses, cows, and hogs; a trader - - he can tell the good points of his animal or commodity in glowing language and appropriately disregard the bad points; from his viewpoint, to back out on a trade shows weakness of character; a farmer - -

year after year he plants more than he can ever take care of, works other people just as hard as he works himself, scatters his efforts over a large area of the County, three farms at Sunset, three at Fruitland, and three at Selma; he has farmed more farms than any other person in the history of the County this first hundred years; at every rural school where he taught (and he has taught in every part of the County) he marshalled the school children, along with his three boys, into a program of farm work after school and entertainment on weekends; a Teacher - - he had the intelligence, patience, and strength of character to make a good one; a roadside operator - - he had rather be farming or tending to his stock, but when he is there he gets with them; he is never backward about asking favors of other people, but in turn he will work hours to help others with no reward in mind; some people say he brags too much for he tells his stories big and most of the time artfully, but in this he is like a cowboy who has made a good ride, he has that same pride of accomplishment and we see it in his walk and in his talk . . .

CALIFORNIA TRAIL PASSED THROUGH SAINT JO

The discovery of gold in California in 1849 resulted in the federal government's survey of the California Trail through Montague County. The trail through this area was often referred to as the El Paso Road.

The ice and snow during the winter months made it impossible for travelers to cross the northern and eastern states to California, so the government surveyed the southern route from the trail's beginning at St. Louis, Mo.

The trail went by way of Springtown, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Prior Boggy Depot in Indian Territory, Colbert's Ferry on Red River, Sherman, Gainesville, Head of Elm (Saint Jo), Queen's Peak, Buffalo Springs, Jacksboro, Fort Belknap, then to Fort Chadbourne, El Paso, Tuscon, Yuma, Los Angeles and San Francisco. This was a total of 2,795 miles and it took riders twenty-three days and several horses to make the trip.

An old land grant patent of 1852, signed by Governor Bell of Texas to a Mr. Morgan, a copy of which is owned by H. D. Field, Jr. of Saint Jo, clearly locates the old California Trail through Saint Jo. The legal document shows that the famous trail entered the city limits of Saint Jo at the south end of Line Street and turned west to run where the high school building now stands to cross Elm Fork of the Trinity in a westerly direction north of Buck Branch over the bluff in the general direction of the present town of Montague and on to Queen's Peak.



Top Picture: Looking North from Red River cemetery to where Red River Station was located. The town is gone, but memories of the thousands of cattle that crossed Red River Station going up the Chisholm Trail will linger forever.

Bottom Picture: A Southern Maid opening at Memphis, Tennessee. The elephant "Bib Babe" champ donut eater at 40 dozen at one setting. All the people at Southern donut company are from Montague county having spent most of their life near Ringgold. Bruce Jones, president, has been a big booster for Ringgold and each year brings a "big time" show to Ringgold to raise money for the Cemetery Association.

CONGRATULATIONS
on your
CENTENNIAL YEAR

SOUTHERN MAID DO-NUT CO., Inc.

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

Bruce C. Jones, President

Johnnie M. Jones, Secretary-Treasurer

Jack Gray, Vice-President

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 1958

RINGGOLD PROGRAM

HOMEcoming — RINGGOLD SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

10:45 A.M. Attend one of Ringgold's churches

12:30 P.M. Dinner: Underwood's Catering Service

2:00 P.M. The following program:

Master of Ceremonies Ardell Young

Pianist Mrs. Sara Maxey

Song Leader Dick Waters

Invocation Mrs. Edwards Seeds

Welcome Mrs. Roy Fitts

Response Bruce Jones

Song — "America" By Audience

Presentation of all teachers, students and guests
(Rise, give name, address, business at present)

Special music

Facts about the School History Mrs. Jack Crenshaw

Master of ceremonies will present gifts to the oldest teacher
and the oldest student present.

The master of ceremonies will also determine if these homecomings
will be continued, and if so, how often, and date of next one.

Song "Auld Lang Syne" Audience

Benediction Melton Ray Stout

COMMITTEES

GENERAL

Ruth Hamilton, President
Mrs. Dorothy Witt, Secretary
Joe Staley, Treasurer

PROGRAM

Mrs. F. L. Davis, Chairman
Mrs. M. L. Carlton, Member
Mrs. Don Slagle, Member

PUBLICITY

Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Lee, Chairmen
Mrs. H. M. Mass, Member

TICKET

Mrs. Roy Fitts, Chairman
M. L. Carlton, Member
Mrs. W. J. Wheat, Member

TELEPHONE

Mrs. L. H. Campbell, Chairman
Mrs. J. M. Shaw, Member

CATERING

Joe Staley

HISTORY OF RINGGOLD

Ringgold was first named Harrisonia, but the Post Office Department rejected that name because there was already a Texas town by that name. Doss town, located near the present townsite, had a post office that was moved to Ringgold about 1892 after the Rock Island and the Gainesville, Henrietta and Western railroads failed to cross at the expected Doss townsite.

The town was then named for Mrs. Joe Harris, whose maiden name was Ringgold. Mr. and Mrs. Harris were extensive land owners and would make easy terms to new comers if they would build homes.

R. J. Liston was the first postmaster and he also operated a general store.

The first school was built by public subscription in 1893.

The first house at old Doss was built of logs and

was owned by Dunk Wesby. S. E. Doss of Gainesville bought ten sections of land north of Ringgold, which had been donated by the State to the railroad, and this was cut into small tracts and sold for homesites. Two large tracts of land were cut into small farms and sold: the Silversteen tract east of Ringgold and the land of Henry D. Lindsay of Dallas.

Boom days for the town of Ringgold came in the period 1906-08. The Rock Island R. R. planned to build a roundhouse and yards. The project was moved to Waurika, Okla., after the railroad was unable to secure the necessary land.

At one time there were there hotels in the town, the Harris, Commercial and Lone Star. The town supported a flour mill, a newspaper, livery stable, mattress factory and a number of allied business firms. Robert Kuteman owned the first lumber yard and Charles Stroup was nationally famous for his taxidermy work.

Pictured at right is the old Red River Crossing where thousands of cattle have crossed as they left Texas across Red River into Indian Territory, during the days of the Chisholm Trail. Nothing remains of the town, and the crossing has grown up in trees and underbrush. But you can still see the cut made first by buffalo crossing the river and then the trail herds.



Bottom Picture: This is the ranch home of Noah Howard in 1900. The house was built in 1860 by Tom Wilson who settled the ranch. He moved to New Mexico in 1886, and became a very prominent rancher and important leader in the growth of New Mexico.

The lumber for this house was hauled 70 miles from Sherman, Texas, which was the nearest settlement. The house is still standing and is located five miles west of Spanish Fort and about two miles from the Yellow bank crossing and three miles from the Seay Crossing, which were very important crossings to trail herds, moving up the Chisholm Trail.

S. D. Howard, son of Noah Howard and Mrs. Howard, is shown in the picture. He was born in this house.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE
PEOPLE OF MONTAGUE COUNTY
ON THEIR 100th ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. S. D. (Pig) Howard

MONDAY, JULY 28, 1958

SPANISH FORT PROGRAM

- 1:00 P.M. Kangaroo Court, Judge McNatt, Coy Simpson, present Judge.
2:00 P.M. Old time style show
4:00 P.M. Centennial Parade
5:00 P.M. Barbecue and Basket Lunch
7:30 P.M. Street Dance and Dance at School house

COMMITTEES

GENERAL

Lon Lee, Chairman
Mrs. Viola Bigbee, Secretary
Mrs. Sam Crownover, Treasurer

PROGRAM

Charlie Howard
S. D. Howard
B. O. Mitchell, Jr.
Clyde Johnson
Mrs. Violet Thompson
Jimmie Howard
Mrs. Glenys Goolsby
Mrs. Coy Simpson
Mrs. Lula Tipton
Mrs. William Allen
Mrs. Lawana Brown
Mrs. Ruth Shipley

PARADE

S. D. Howard, Chairman
Bill Henley
Henry McGaughy
Harold Lane

ARRANGING DISPLAY

B. O. Mitchell, Jr.

FOOD

Sam Crownover
Glenn Polk
S. Snodgrass
Charlie Howard
B. O. Mitchell, Jr.
Jim Cain
Jimmie Howard
S. E. Howard
Charlie Lee
William Brown
Robert Brown

FINANCE

Sam Crownover
Charlie Howard
Raymond Tucker
Biffle Brown
S. Snodgrass
Glenn Polk
Pete McGuire
Henry McGaughy
Bill Salmon
Clyde Johnson

HISTORY OF SPANISH FORT

Was platted as town site in 1854, and by 1873 was a good size town with four hotels and five doctors and a number of saloons and other business houses. It was then named Burlington. Post Office officials notified the people that the name of the town would have to be changed before they could get a Post Office as there was a town by that name already in the State of Texas.

In 1878 the name was changed to Spanish Fort, because of the Spanish and French battle that had been fought there years before.

There was a ferry across Red River and it was the main artery of travel out of Indian Territory. It has been said, that many Oklahoma bad men would spend time in Spanish Fort, and old court dockets reveal that Belle Starr's husband was fined several times for gaming.

One of the landmarks of the early days was the "Cowboy Saloon" owned and operated by Mr. Schrock.

There was a picture of a long horn steer over the front. This old building was destroyed in a storm just a few years ago.

H. J. Justin, the founder of Justin Boot Company and the father of Miss Enid Justin, president of the Nocona Boot Co., Inc., started his business in Spanish Fort. Cowboys on the Chisholm Trail would stop and place an order with Mr. Justin as they went up the trail and pick up their boots coming back.

When the railroads started coming through North Texas, they missed Spanish Fort, and many of the business men left to move to towns located on the railroad.

With the establishment of a town, churches and schools were also established. The Methodist and Baptist churches were organized and for several years met on the first floor of the Masonic lodge building, until they could get their buildings constructed.

The only other church to locate at Spanish Fort was the Church of Christ that had a small congregation from 1926 to 1930.



Top: A Saint Jo street scene in 1896, looking north-west on Main at Boggess toward Howell.

Bottom: Saint Jo's plaza in 1908, with first rock school building in left-center background.

SERVING SAINT JO AREA SINCE 1892

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

SAINT JO, TEXAS

MEMBER F.D.I.C.

SAINT JO PROGRAM

- 8:30 A.M. Kangaroo Court throughout the morning hours, with other entertainment including ole time sack races, tugs-o-war, and horseshoe pitching contests. Merry-go-round on the square for the children.
- 10:30 A.M. Dedication of Historical Marker on Plaza J. W. Williams
Past-President of West Texas Historical Association and author of a number of books. Rev. Earl J. Patton, Master of Ceremonies. Members of the monument committee, working through the Montague County Historical organization headed by Glenn O. Wilson: Mrs. V. W. Redman, Mrs. W. E. Scott, Mrs. Allen Hutson, E. E. Hayley, H. D. Field, Jr., and W. E. Nunneley.
- 12 NOON FREE BARBECUE
- 2:30 P.M. Downtown Parade O. K. Williams, Chairman
- 6:30 P.M. Contests Barbershop Quartets and Old Fiddlers
Prizes for oldest persons present, those coming the greatest distance, and best pioneer costumes. Mrs. S. J. Pedigo, chm.
- 8:00 P.M. Dances, Exhibitions of Tribal
Customs, Skills Anadarko Indians
- 9:00 P.M. STREET DANCE

SAINT JO PROGRAM COMMITTEES

GENERAL

Lester Victor, Chairman
Mrs. D. C. Berry, Jr., Secretary
Mrs. W. D. Dowd, Treasurer

COURTS and FINES

W. E. Nunneley, Chairman
Lester Victor
Clyde Yetter
Lester Hendricks
Curtis Martin

ENTERTAINMENT

Mrs. S. J. Pedigo, Chairman
Dr. L. E. Lake
Mrs. R. W. Huchtons
Tom White
Mrs. Lester Victor
Mrs. B. A. Holbrook
Mrs. Roy Kingery
Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Parker
Otto Holland

GARDEN CLUB: Mrs. John Morgan, Mrs. S. T. Meador; **BLUE BONNET STUDY CLUB:** Mrs. C. D. Meador, Mrs. John Morgan; **TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB:** Mrs. D. C. Berry, Jr., Mrs. Billy Phillips; **OPTIMIST CLUB:** Herschel Boyd, Lester Victor; **QUARTERBACK CLUB:** O. K. Williams, Curtis Martin; **RIDING CLUB:** Weldon Dennis, H. D. Field

QUEENS CONTEST

Mrs. C. D. Meador, Chairman
Mrs. R. T. Brock
Mrs. Arthur Kingery

FOODS and GROUNDS

Billy Phillips, Chairman
Ed Cooksey
James Wingo
Cooper Price
Roy Lawler
Pete Jones

FINANCE

Eber N. Dunbar, Chm.

PUBLICITY

Mrs. Tom White, Chm.
E. E. Hayley
Mrs. Cooper Price

ANTIQU

Steve McGrady, Co-Chm
Mrs. E. Dunbar, Co-Chm.
Mrs. J. M. Shields
Mrs. C. H. Shofner
Jessie Chancey
Mrs. Johnnie Tucker

TROPHIES and PRIZES

Mrs. C. C. Redman, Chm.
Mrs. R. W. Donnell
Delbert Grant
Mrs. Bill Crump

PARADE

O. K. Williams, Chairman
R. T. Brock
Westall Williams
Mrs. W. E. Nunneley

SAINT JO HISTORY - -

(Continued from Page 11)

The first train on the G.H.&W. (now Missouri-Kansas-Texas) arrived here January 25, 1887.

An asphalt mine was opened just east of the townsite before the turn of the century, but the stockholders didn't recognize that it was the forerunner of the oil development that was to come. Asphalt from the mine was used to build sidewalks around the square for many years.

In 1904 the first automobile was brought to town by Dr. D. C. Frie, and it is said that it scared all the horses in town. The volunteer fire department was organized in 1935 and now has two pumpers.

One of the claims for the town's financial soundness is the fact that there has never been a dime lost in a bank failure. Oil production has added to the economy since 1926, while ranching continues to prosper along with truck farming and row crops. A number of oil firms maintain headquarter of-

fices here. Thousands of loads of native grass hay are shipped annually, from land that has never been under the plow.

Long established business firms include: Scott Brothers, 1890; First National Bank, 1892; Pedigo Pharmacy, 1892; Meador Brothers, 1880; Saint Jo Tribune, 1898; Bellah Dry Goods, 1898; Morgan Grocery, 1890.

During 1958 the highway departments of the states of Texas and Oklahoma announced joint plans for the construction of a bridge across Red River north of Saint Jo. Engineers report that some work on the project will begin during the county's centennial year. A new road to Bulcher is under construction; the Church of Christ is building a new church; the First Baptist and First Methodist have new educational buildings; a score of new homes have recently been completed or are under construction, and three new business buildings attest to the citizenship's faith in the town's future.



Top Picture: Forestburg Methodist Church Congregation about 1902.

Bottom Picture: The City Shop was Forestburg's blacksmith shop. l.r. in the picture are: Rip Hudspeth, Edgar Stallworth, John Thompson, and Professor Branch.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MONTAGUE COUNTY CENTENNIAL FROM CITIZENS OF FORESTBURG, TEXAS

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Dunn
Post Office Department

Casey Jones
General Merchandise

G. D. Wylie
General Merchandise

Pryor McGee
General Insurance

A. A. Fanning
Texaco Service Station

Dick Ellzey
Sinclair Products

Walter Brewer
Laundry

Rowe Sledge
Rural Mail Carrier

Dill & Poynor
Garage & Welding

Charlie Poynor
Stock Farmer

Forestburg Rodeo Association
Next Rodeo July 30, 7:30 P.M.

H. R. Anderson
Feed and Trucking

Ellzey & Sledge
Wholesale Motor Oil

J. A. Moore
Stock Farmer

Levi Perryman
Wood Cutter

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, 1958

FORESTBURG PROGRAM

12:00 Noon Open Museum. Visitation of old timers. (At School house)

3:30 P.M. Centennial parade

7:30 P.M. Rodeo

9:30 P.M. Square Dance

OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

GENERAL

Rex Anderson, President
Dick Ellzey, Vice-President
Howard Sledge, Secretary-Treasurer

FOODS

Casey Jones

PUBLICITY

Billie Anderson

FINANCE: J. M. Dunn

The post office force assembled in this early day picture at Forestburg shows Ithamer M. (Dock) Jones, the first rural carrier out of that office, on horseback at left. Others in the picture are Edward Meek, standing by his team; the lady postmistress, Lizzie Roberson, and Bailey Ham standing by his team with his mail bag on his shoulder. The first rural route from Forestburg was established January 2, 1905. Ithamer Jones was the first carrier and he served on the route until January, 1914, when he was transferred to route three. The Forestburg post office was established by the government July 18, 1876. It was advanced from fourth class to third class in 1944.



THE BENTON MUSEUM AND BOOK COLLECTION

The late Joe Benton built a fire-proof museum building on the site of the log cabin where he was born near Nocona to house over a million Indian artifacts, many of which he found himself. His collection of books on the Southwest is one of the largest in the state and consists of many original volumes.

Thousands of visitors, including historians from all over the United States, have visited the museum. Several university students have written thesis from material available in the collection.

The book shelves include an original Blueback Speller and a complete set of McGuffey's Readers. Mr. Benton cherished a Latin book he bought for the \$1.65 earned for cutting a cord of wood when he was a lad in 1900.

Miss Clarice Benton, the late pioneer's daughter, has a collection of thirty-five volumes of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, and twenty volumes of

"Purchas, His Pilgrims."

A justice court docket from Spanish Fort for 1884 charged Budd Starr, husband of the notorious Belle Starr, with gaming.

A thesis by a history major at the University of Oklahoma was researched in Benton's museum in 1951 by Elizabeth Ann Harper of Waurika. It was done on the Toavayas Indians, which was the Spanish pronunciation of Wichita.

Historical records in the library reveal that some 3,000 Indians lived on each side of the Red River and that Coronado was there in April 1541. Mr. Benton always believed that the village was one of the Seven Cities of Cibola the Spaniard was seeking. DeSoto was also through the area.

Fertile river valley soil assured an abundance of corn and buffalo herds of the plains and elk, turkey, etc., in the cross timbers provided meat to make the village location ideal.

The library's collection of various volumes on the history of Montague County, and related subjects, is unequalled anywhere.



Top Picture: Bowie veterans of the Civil War. Once each year these veterans held a reunion.

Bottom Picture: First public school building erected in Bowie in 1888. Mrs. Minnie Slaughter started to school in this building. It was known as the South Ward school.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BOWIE BOWIE, TEXAS

Established 1890

THE OLDEST BANK IN MONTAGUE COUNTY

MEMBER F.D.I.C.

THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1958

BOWIE PROGRAM

- 10:00 A.M. Centennial parade
12:00 Noon Free Barbecue, Pelham Park
2:30 P.M. Styles and Songs of Yesteryear (City Auditorium)
7:30 P.M. Jamboree
10:30 P.M. Street Square Dance

COMMITTEES

FINANCE

G. A. Quisenberry
Miss Ermynttrude McNatt

PUBLICITY

Harlow Tibbetts
C. D. Allen
Mrs. Loraine Bowman

TROPHIES and PRIZES

Glenn Griffin
Mrs. Helen Jefferies

GROUND

Fire Department

CENTENNIAL ITEMS SALE

Rotary Club

CENTENNIAL COURT

Lions Club

FLOATS

Mrs. C. A. Randolph
Mrs. Earl Goodwin
Mrs. Alvin Baccus
Mrs. Odell Quante
Mrs. T. D. Beach
Mrs. T. V. Stephens
Homer Jackson
Dallas Kirby
JoAllen Spears
Julian Bowman
Billy Neeld

PARADE

Jack Marshall, Parade Marshal
L. D. Falls
Thomas Evans

HISTORICAL, ANTIQUE

Thursday Club
Garden Club

EXCURSIONS & SURREY RIDES

Art League

FREE BARBECUE

G. A. Quisenberry
Milton Carter
Tommy Whitecotton
Fred Mershon

STYLE SHOW & MUSIC

Amity Club
Maids and Matrons Club
McDowell Club

JAMBOREE

Bowie Chamber of Commerce

DECORATION OF PLATFORM

American Legion Auxiliary

LOG CABIN

Joe Overstreet

OLD TIME SALOON

American Legion
Veterans of Foreign Wars

OFFICERS

Mrs. JoAllen Spears, President
Mrs. Ogden Clarke, Vice-President
Mrs. Dallas Kirby, Sec.-Treas.

DIRECTORS

G. A. Quisenberry
G. L. Griffin
David Moyer
Norman Heath
C. D. Allen
Mrs. Julian Bowman
Mrs. George Slaughter
Mrs. T. D. Beach
Mrs. C. A. Randolph
Thomas Evans
Harlow Tibbetts
George Hoeldtke
Wilson Duke
Jack Bradley
H. L. Turns
Bob Patterson
Dallas Kirby

L. D. Falls
M. Bob Posey
Chris McGee
Homer Jackson
Miss Laura D. Davis
Mrs. W. V. Davis
Miss Ermynttrude McNatt
Mrs. Roscoe Covey
Mrs. S. T. Hoffman
Mrs. Mose Johnson
Mrs. Gordon Heard
Mrs. Earl Goodwin
Mrs. Helen Jefferies
Mrs. Homer Burge
Mrs. A. C. Baccus
Mrs. Thomas Ayres



Top: Ranch in North Montague County before the turn of the Century.

Bottom: The First Hereford Cattle brought to Montague County.

The NOCONA Boot Company, Inc.

"THE BETTER BOOT"

Miss Enid Justin, President

NOCONA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 1958

NOCONA PROGRAM

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 9:00 A.M. | Beard and Pioneer Dress Contest | Parent-Teachers Assn. |
| 10:00 A.M. | Centennial parade | Chisholm Trail Riding Club |
| 2:00 P.M. | Centennial rodeo | Nocona Rodeo Association |
| 5:00 P.M. | Old Fiddler's contest | Thursday Club |
| 8:00 P.M. | Centennial rodeo | Nocona Rodeo Association |
| 10:00 P.M. | Street Dance | American Legion |
| Old Time Saloon will be open all week | | Round-up Club |
| Historical Museum | | Montague County Historical Committee |
| Historical tours | | Maids and Matrons Club |
| Judge Roy Bean Court | | Lions Club |
| Sale of Buttons, Hats and Centennial items | | Rotary Club |

NOCONA CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

Dr. H. B. Wallis, President R. B. Henley, Vice-President Anita Leonard, Sec.-Treas.

Club Representatives

American Legion: Otto Menasco, Boyd Maddox
Chisholm Trail Riding Club: Chris Neeld, Roy Fitts
Lions Club: Dr. H. B. Wallis, Jim Curlin
Junior Chamber of Commerce: R. B. Henley, Dr. B. B. Stephens
Thursday Literary Club: Mrs. A. N. Arveson, Mrs. Roy Fitts
Nocona Chamber of Commerce: W. L. Scott, Aubrey Adams
Crepe Myrtle Garden Club: Miss Anita Leonard
Volunteer Fire Department: Walt Walker, Dwight Holcomb
Ministerial Alliance: W. D. Craig, Ed Murray
Maids and Matrons Club: Miss Clarice Benton, Mrs. R. E. Storey
Rotary Club: R. B. Stout, E. J. Johnson
Round-up Club: Mrs. Patsy Dow, Mrs. Hinds Clark
Parent-Teachers Association: Mrs. Homer Dodson, Mrs. W. C. Barker
Rodeo Association: Buck Keck, Chris Uselton
Historical Survey Committee: Glenn Wilson

JOE BENTON

One of the greatest losses to Montague County was the death of Joe Benton, June 26, 1958. Born in a log cabin overlooking the Chisholm Trail, he spent all of his life working to improve Nocona and Montague county.

On every worthwhile project started in the county he was one of the first to make his contribution and offer his assistance. He helped to finance the construction of almost every church in the county, he loved the county and its people, he wanted to see it grow and be the best county in the State of Texas.

He has walked a million miles looking for Indian artifacts and historical relics, his items numbered into the thousands. He constructed a fire proof museum on the site where he was born, and welcomed all who wanted to visit his museum.

His collection of books on the southwest is the largest in the United States. His collection of old books are priceless and he has many first copies of these outstanding books.

He worked several years securing leases and trying to get the people to realize the great oil possibilities in Montague county before the first well was brought in. He was the first to bring Aberdeen Angus cattle into the county.

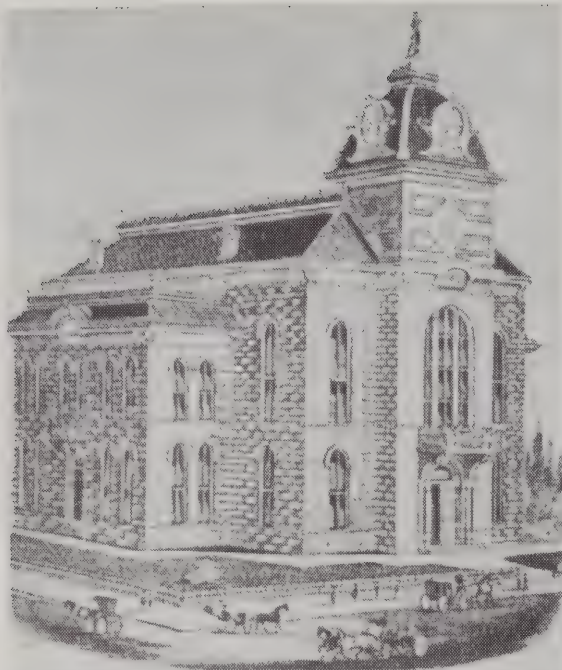
His ranches have been show places, and several years ago he built a stage in a natural amphitheater on his ranch to hold Easter Sunrise services.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Benton were the two responsible for building the Presbyterian church and Manse in Nocona.

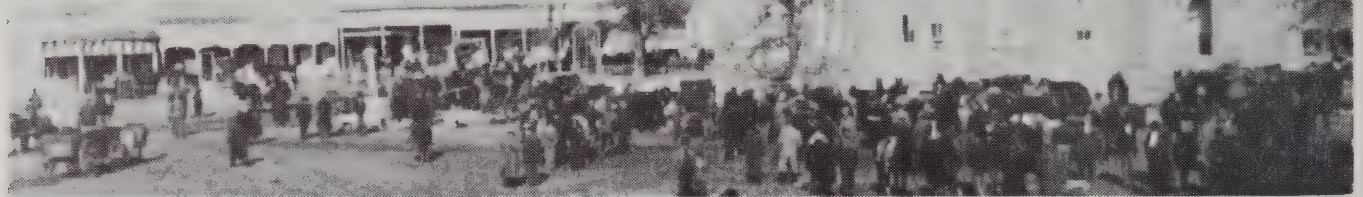
Joe was the first life member of the Nocona Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the board of directors for years, and never once voted against a project that would help Montague county or Nocona.

He was the only president of the Nocona Water board and he was very interested in getting ample water for Nocona.

During his life he lived to help others, he gave much and asked for nothing, his life was an example of a good citizen, a friend and supporter for Montague county.



Montague County has had three court houses. The first was built in 1858-59 and was a log courthouse. It burned in 1873. Temporary quarters were rented in two buildings in Montague. In 1888 the building pictured in the center panel was built. (Inset at left was the architect's drawing of the structure) The dome on top always leaked and had to be removed. In 1911 the building was so severely damaged by a wind storm that the structure had to be torn down. Note the well in front of old courthouse, which was the only source of water.



The present courthouse (small picture at the right) was dedicated on May 7, 1912. A. W. Ritchie was county judge; A. J. Perryman was commissioner of precinct 1; T. J. Wheeler was commissioner of precinct 2; J. W. Stanford, commissioner, precinct 3; W. L. Snapp, commissioner, precinct 4. L. Z. Rodgers was the contractor, and Geo. Burnett, architect. Montague Lodge No. 415 AF&AM, had charge of the corner stone ceremony and in recent years have used the third floor for their hall.



When the structure was erected it had a dome, but this was removed several years ago. The jail was located on the top floor and was used until the new jail building was erected on the southeast corner of the courthouse grounds.

The old jail cell out of the second courthouse (top) was moved to Saint Jo and has been used by Kangaroo Court Judges during the celebration to remind citizens that they should obey the rules of the centennial committee.

Freese and Nichols

CONSULTING ENGINEERS

DANCIGER BUILDING

FORT WORTH 2, TEXAS

BEST WISHES TO MONTAGUE COUNTY
ON ITS 100th ANNIVERSARY

We are happy to have had a part in
its growth since 1925

**Decatur Building
and Loan Association**

Decatur, Texas

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1958

MONTAGUE PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies District Judge Louis Holland
8:55 A.M. Flag Raising National Guard
9:00 A.M. Montague County Queen Contest
10:30 A.M. Centennial Parade Ewing Johnson
12:00 Noon Lunch
1:30 P.M. Style Show and Pioneer dresses Euthelva Jameson
2:30 P.M. Dedication of Montague County Marker
6:30 P.M. Judging of whiskers, old fiddler contest
Introduction of guests, street dance
9:00 P.M. Singers' Convention, Gospel songs
9:30 P.M. Street dance continued

OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

GENERAL

Mrs. David Minor, President
Jim Giaketti, Vice-President
Cecil Adkins, Secretary
Mrs. Raymond Walker, Treasurer
Melvin Fenoglio, Publicity
Willard Shackelford, Mayor
Rev. Donald Wood, Centennial Chaplain

CITY MARSHALS

Nig Byron
Ozzie Wood
George Berry
Ruby Carter
Inez Strong
Wylie Roberts

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Joe Carminati, Log Cabin
Cecil Johnson, Wooden Nickle
Ewing Johnson, Parade
Buck Zahn, Riding Club
Cloe Giaketti, Flag
P. A. Carminati, Covered Wagon
Evelyn Fenoglio, Concessions
Lowell Trout, Street Dance
Helen Fenoglio, Schedule of Events
Delbert Carter, Whisker

QUEEN COMMITTEE

Doris Carminati
Ruby Carter

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Mrs. John Davis
Mrs. J. M. Leatherwood

COUNTY MASONIC LODGES

The history of organized Masonic lodges dates back 84 years of the county's first 100 years, but the presence of Masons in the area was first recorded in 1814 when some unknown Royal Arch Mason carved his mark "IC" on a keystone emblem on a sandstone rock two miles east of Spanish Fort. Time and weather have dimmed the lettering and figures on the carving first discovered about 1925.

Montague Lodge, No. 415, AF&AM, is the county's oldest organized lodge. It was chartered in May 1874. Seven lodges of the county now comprise the 86th Masonic District operating under the Grand Lodge of Texas.

Burlington Lodge, No. 440, (Spanish Fort) was established June 7, 1875 and the Saint Jo Lodge, No. 483, was chartered Dec. 14, 1878.

Other lodges and the order in which they were chartered: Forestburg, 1880; Bowie, 1883; Illinois Bend, 1888; and Nocona, 1894. The Stoneburg lodge was disbanded after their building was destroyed in the 1940s.

Royal Arch Chapters and Royal and Select Councils have long been active at Saint Jo and

Bowie.

The history of Eastern Star Chapters at Saint Jo, Nocona, Bowie and Spanish Fort dates back almost as long as that of the Masonic lodges.

The late Benjamin F. Duff, a resident of Ringgold for more than 50 years before his death in 1956, served in the United States Army during three wars: Spanish American, Philippine Insurrection and the Boxer Rebellion in China.

Dru Schrock, a native of Spanish Fort, has in his possession a silver bugle engraved with this inscription: "B. Griswold, Company F, Minnesota Volunteers, 2nd Cavalry." (1863) It was recovered from a band of raiding Indians by Mr. Schrock's father, who was an early Texas Ranger. How the Indians got the bugle, no one knows.

Illinois Bend and Bonita were once thriving towns with cotton gins, saloons and other retail outlets. Hardy and Dye Mound were also once well settled.

THANK YOU

The county centennial committee takes this opportunity to thank the advertisers who have made this book possible. We hope that the citizens of Montague County express their appreciation to them.

Thanks to all the people who have made contributions of material and pictures used in this book. Without their cooperation much of the material could not have been obtained.

Thanks to Morris Johnson of Nocona, Bob Patterson of Bowie, and Kent Bellah of Saint Jo for their assistance with pictures.

Thanks to members of all committees in all towns of the county, for their efforts and services in making this a great celebration.

Thanks to the Newspapers for their help and publicity.

Thanks to E. E. Hayley of IPTA Printers, Saint Jo, for giving us an outstanding book, and the many extra things he did.

To those we may have forgotten "Thanks."

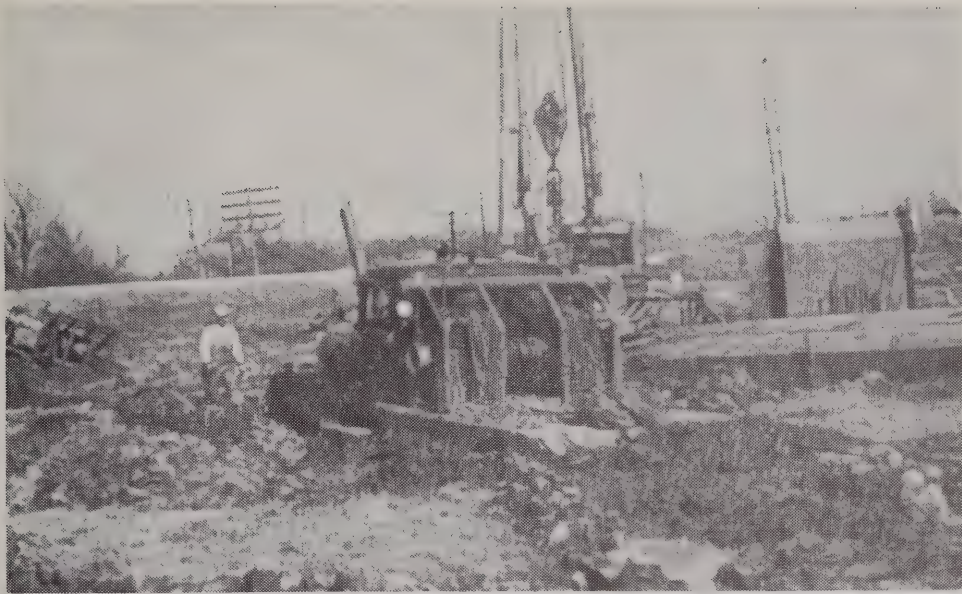
Centennial Executive Committee

President Casey Jones, Forestburg

Treasurer Harlow Tibbetts, Bowie

Vice President H. D. Field, Jr., Saint Jo

Secretary Jeff S. Henderson, Nocona



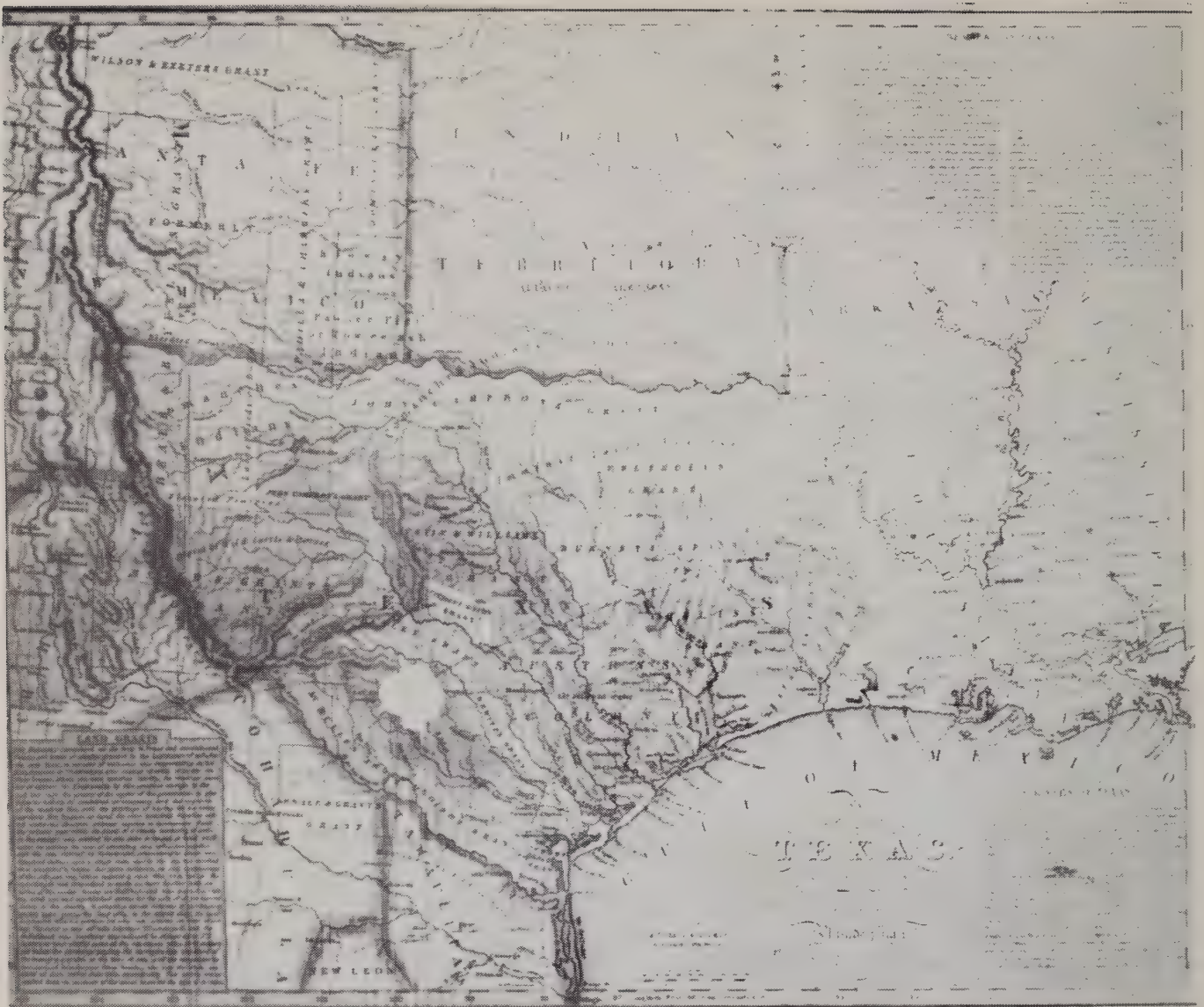
The Oil Industry has been one of Montague county's chief sources of income since the mid-20's. The worse thing that oil men had to compete with is mud. The above pitures are good examples of how the weather can hamper oil field equipment.

Before the days of motor equipment, oxen and mules were used to haul the heavy equipment in the oil fields, and it often required 20 to 30 team of mules to pull this heavy equipment through the mud.

Kingery Drilling Company, Inc.

Drilling Contractors

SAINT JO, TEXAS



THIS MAP OWNED BY MRS. HELEN HENDERSON

This map was made in 1835, when Texas was still a part of Mexico, in the Remarks on Texas it states that the people of United States were interested in Texas and that there were 45,000 American and 4 or 5,000 Mexicans.

It states further, "When the population is found to number 50,000 the people will endeavor to obtain a government separate from that of Cohahuila, establishment of a state legislature at San Felipe and the right of electing their own representatives to the General Congress at Mexico."

Most of North Texas was a part of the John Cameron Grant.

Three generations of bankers . . .

salute the pioneers and citizens of Montague County during the Centennial Celebration, for their ability, determination and progress, that have contributed in making this one of the best counties of Texas.

We volunteer our assistance to help make the next hundred years as successful as the first hundred years.

FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS \$250,000.00

ESTABLISHED IN 1905

MEMBER F. D. I. C.

NOCONA

TEXAS

#270



